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JANUARY 5th, 1944

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South Australian News and Notes

Citrus Culture

War Agricultural Committees

Crop Reports

Tasmanian News and Notes

Vegetable Culture

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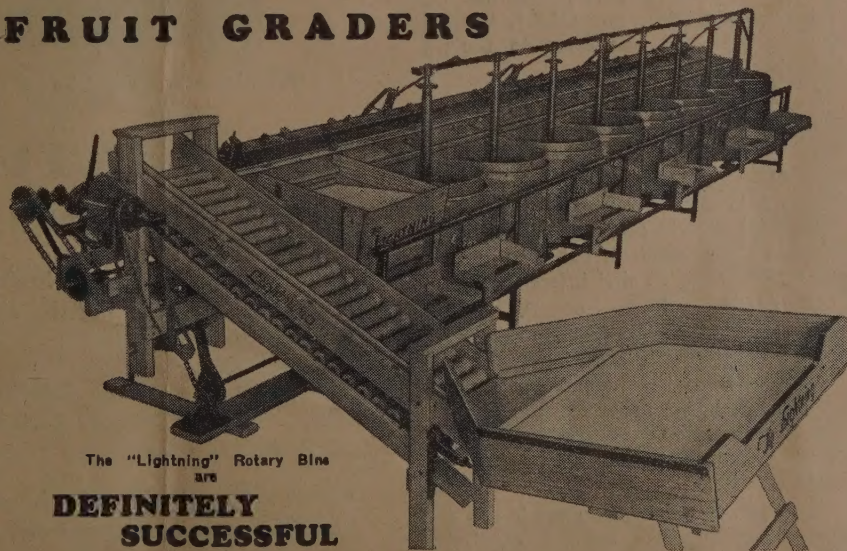
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Citrus Notes

AUSTRALIAN ORANGES.

New Zealand Ready to Take More.

When speaking at a civic reception at Gosford, N.S.W., recently, the High Commissioner for New Zealand, Mr. J. G. Barclay, declared that N.Z. could have taken 500,000 cases of Oranges from Australia last year, and that he would make every effort to get Australian Oranges into the Dominion in big quantities when the war was over.

Mr. Barclay said that there were now no trade rivalries between the two Dominions, and it was not a matter of New Zealand's saying that if Australia would take N.Z. Potatoes, New Zealand would take Australian Oranges.

During the war there had been reciprocity between the two countries in short supply goods, and in his decided opinion there should be more of the co-operative spirit and less of the competitive, which should never enter into trade relations again.

New Zealand's Imports.

New Zealand's importation of Oranges from all sources averaged 370,000 bushels (of 50 lb.) in the three years 1930-32, of which Australia's total varied from 141,000 to 220,000 bushels, and the Cook Islands from 110,000 to 171,000 bushels. In 1933, because of the partial embargo on the importation on Australian Oranges, N.Z. Orange imports fell to 368,000 bushels, and the Australian total to 79,000 bushels.

In the years 1934-36, imports increased from 375,000 to 434,000 bushels, of which the Australian (S.A.) total was 164,000 to 178,000 bushels. In 1937, the embargo was further relaxed in favour of the M.I.A. and the Victorian and border areas, and Australia's exports to N.Z. increased to more than 380,000 bushels, declining to 280,000 in the short crop year, 1939.

1939-40 Figures.

In the years 1939-40, N.Z. Orange imports were as follow:—

Orange Imports to New Zealand.			
	1939.	1940.	
	Totals as 50 lb. bushels.		
Australia	283,685	263,666	
U.S.A.	47,657	—	
B.W. Indies	127,162	104,397	
Norfolk and			
Pitcairn Islands	1,873	1,012	
Fiji	—	2,878	
Cook Islands	73,411	173,424	
Total bushels	533,788	550,377	

In the last two years export of Oranges to N.Z. from Australia has been reduced to 200,000 bushels a year in accordance with the greatly reduced quantities available for fresh fruit marketing. Last year, apart from the increased service demand for fresh Oranges, upwards of 740,000 bushels of Oranges were compulsorily diverted from a sub-normal crop to factories for processing into juice and cordials as defence foodstuffs. — "Orchardist of N.Z."

RESISTANCE OF POORMAN'S ORANGE AGAINST CITRUS CANKER.

Mr. W. D. Reid, Senior Plant Bacteriologist, Plant Division, Scientific and Industrial Research (N.Z.), has experimented and has come to the following conclusions:—

1. Rough Lemon, Sweet Orange, and strains of N.Z. Grapefruit when artificially inoculated, were equally susceptible to infection by citrus canker (*Pseudomonas citri* Hasse).
2. Differences in origin of stock or scion of N.Z. Grapefruit did not alter the resistance of *P. citri* infection.
3. Different cultures of *P. citri* were approximately equal in their power to infect citrus varieties.
4. Some organisms (regularly isolated from citrus canker lesions) and with similar colony characteristics to *P. citri* were not pathogenic to citric varieties.

Although Poorman's Orange is seldom infected under orchard conditions, yet the experiments performed showed that it was not in any way immune to artificial infection. Therefore it is desirable to treat it the same way as rough Lemon and Sweet Orange in a citrus canker eradication campaign.

FERTILIZERS FOR CITRUS AREAS.

In the N.S.W. Legislative Assembly, recently, Mr. F. J. Finnan (Hawkesbury), asked whether it was a fact that a Commonwealth authority had rationed fertilizers to citrus growers on the scale of 5 cwt. of nitrate of soda and 1 cwt. of super. an acre.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Graham), in reply, said the facts were correct, but as the arrangement would act detrimentally upon the production of citrus fruits, he would refer the matter immediately to the Federal authorities to ascertain whether it were possible to obtain an

increase in the quantity of fertilizer for those areas.

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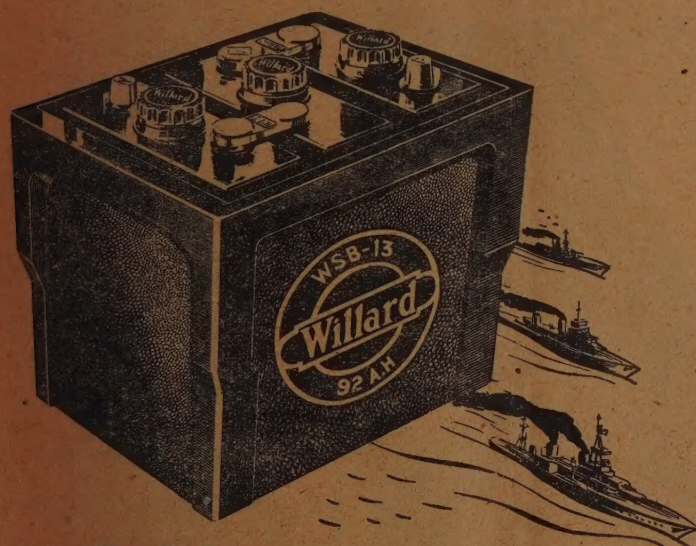
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January 5th, 1945

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NEWS OF THE MONTH

AUSTRALIA—AND THE FOOD FRONT:

PRIOR to 1943 Australia had only about 25 manufacturing concerns catering exclusively for foodstuffs machinery. This was, of course, totally inadequate to meet our increasing demands, so the Ministry of Munitions came to the rescue. Many firms were used on the food processing side, and others, who were previously manufacturing small arms munitions, have been given, over the past 12 months, 100 per cent. capacity to the manufacture of can-making and can-closing machines, and have produced somewhere in the vicinity of 200 machines. This will go a long way towards meeting the mammoth figure of 1,250,000,000 cans, which was the estimated requirement for Australia for 1944. It is pleasing to record that Australia now produces high-speed can making equipment, capable of manufacturing cans at the rate of over 300 per minute.

In addition, some outstanding features on the equipment manufacturing side are:—

- The manufacture of plant that last season processed 1,750,000 gallons of Tomato juice.
- The manufacture of plant that this present season will manufacture an estimate of 2,000,000 gallons of citrus juice.
- The equipping of some twenty (20) dehydration factories.
- The erection of three (3) factories in Tasmania that are about to process the major part of the Tasmanian Apple crop.
- The manufacture of some hundreds of items of bread making machinery, both portable and stationary.

Some further idea of the magnitude of this programme is gained when it is realised that during a span of two months early this year, more than 7,000 electric motors were supplied for food machinery.

BRITAIN'S EXPORT TRADE.

It has been reported from London that Britain's export trade has declined by £238.5 million from 1938 to 1943. The value of exports was £470.7 in 1938 and £232.2 millions in 1943.

UNIFORM RAIL GAUGE.

The National Works Council has amongst its important proposals for post-war development the unification of Australian railway gauges. Federal Cabinet has endorsed 4 ft. 8½ in. as the standard gauge, but the job of conversion will be a big task.

Australians have inherited a legacy of mistaken and short-sighted railway policy in the past. N.S.W. has a 4 ft. 8½ in. gauge; Victoria and South Australia, 5 ft. 3 in.; and Queensland and Western Australia, 3 ft. 6 in. Certain lines built by the Commonwealth are 4 ft. 8½ in., which is the accepted world standard.

When the Japanese threatened invasion of Australia, these breaks of gauge made transfer of men and materials a much slower job than it should have been, and the authorities seem determined to remedy matters. But, though uniformity is at last within sight, the job will cost many millions more than if it had been tackled properly years ago.

SOIL EROSION.

The seriousness of the soil erosion question is being steadily brought home to the Australian public.

It is a matter of vital concern to fruit producers as well as to all Australian citizens.

Only prompt and farsighted action can prevent a major calamity.

CO-OPERATIVE SUCCESS.

Three regional co-operatives in Ohio joined hands to build a feed mill. The success of the enterprise has surprised even the most optimistic of the members. They invested 650,000 dollars in the mill and in 17 months the investment has been recovered and the members have received feed at market prices while the mill was paying for itself.

SWEDISH CO-OPERATION.

The Swedish Co-operative Wholesale Society reports its 45th annual congress. No less than 800,000 Swedish families are members of the Co-operative Wholesale Societies, 1943 alone showing an increase of 24,000. The total turnover of the 5,500 retail shops affiliated to the society amounted in 1943 to £48,700,000.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Apple Crops Very Light, Pears Light.

The Division of Marketing, N.S.W. Dep. of Agr., in their review of Pome fruit crop conditions as at 6th December, 1944, state that dry and unfavourable weather is being experienced in practically all centres of production. In most instances, pome fruit crops are moderate to very light only, and in a number of areas Apples appear to be a complete failure. Pear crops in most instances appear to be somewhat better than Apples, nevertheless, they are mostly moderate to light.

Fruit in many cases lacks development, owing to insufficient moisture, and early and substantial rain is looked for in order that sizing may improve.

Codling Moth is proving troublesome in places.

A report from Kentucky South discloses that many orchards have no Apple and Pear crops this season,

owing to frost damage. In a few there is a half crop, whilst in odd places a good crop is to be seen. What little fruit there is is not attaining any size because of the continued dry weather.

Frosts were also responsible for the depletion of crops around Arding. McIntosh Red Apples have set fairly well, but Jonathans are light, and Granny Smiths patchy. Rome Beauty and Gravensteins are lightly cropped, and Delicious are very light. Democrats have set satisfactorily. Williams, Beurre Bosc and Packham's Triumph Pears are fair, but Winter Coles are mostly lightly cropped. A fair percentage of the Pear crops sustained damage from hail.

Orange.

Although unfavourable weather prevails in this area, it is reported that pome fruits are not yet suffering to any visible extent. Apple crops generally are patchy, and trees which cropped heavily last year are on the light side this season. Sizes for the most part are below normal for this period, and the outturn may approxi-

mate only 50 per cent. of last season's total. Pear crops started off well, but heavy shedding has occurred in some orchards. Williams are slightly heavier than other varieties.

Batlow.

Notwithstanding below average rainfall, trees in this district made satisfactory growth. Very fair crops are to be seen in many orchards, although hail damage has been sustained in some.

On present indications good quality fruit will be produced, but the total yield is expected to be below that of last season.

GRAIN FAILURE.

Serious Position in N.S.W.

About 1,000,000 acres of N.S.W. wheat crop and more than half of the State's oat crop had failed completely, said the Government Cereal Specialist (Dr. S. L. MacIndoe) recently. Many farmers would not be able to harvest even sufficient wheat for next year's seed.

SALT DAMAGE ON M.I.A.

A Serious Menace.

BECAUSE of the grave danger from salt on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas, a community effort is being made to solve the problem.

A Soils and Irrigation Extension Service has been set up by the C.S.I.R. Irrigation Research Station, Griffith, N.S.W. The personnel of the S.I.E.S. is as follows:—Messrs. R. R. Pennefather, B.Agr.Sc. (in charge), D. V. Walters, M.Agr.Sc., J. T. Fitzpatrick, B.Agr.Sc., L. F. Myers, B.Agr.Sc., with Miss Esher M. Eagle, B.Agr.Sc., as Secretary.

Mr. Pennefather states that to-day, on paper, the M.I.A. presents a prosperous picture: rice, fruit, vine and vegetable production, stepped up for war needs, has exceeded the 1942-43 record value of £2,250,000. Against this there is the ever-darkening background of destruction caused by excess soil water. Of the trees living in 1940, one-sixth have since died, and a high percentage of the remainder are sick. One farm in four on the Mirrool Area is affected by salt. Tree mortality and loss of soil fertility are due to several causes, but the outstanding one is salt, unquestionably the M.I.A.'s greatest problem to-day.

Here is the four-point programme which the Research Committee has drawn up:—

1. To arouse public interest in the seriousness of salting.
2. To demonstrate that controlled irrigation can prevent it.
3. To intensify research on possible methods for reclaiming land already salted.
4. To obtain controlled irrigation every farm before it is too late.

IRRIGATION PAYS.

Curlwaa and Coomealla, S. Aust.

During the past season some 16,000 tons of dried fruits were produced on the Curlwaa and Coomealla irrigation areas, watered by the Murray, and it is estimated that 160,000 cases of citrus fruits will also be available for local and military consumption from the harvest now in progress. The estimated total value of production for the year ended on June 30 last, was about £400,000.

Without irrigation the area from which this production was obtained would carry only about 300 sheep.

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Spraying Notes

TO CONTROL RED SPIDER.

CLEAN CULTIVATION, and the destruction of weeds etc., are important factors in preventing the spread of red spider, states the N.S.W. Dept. of Agric. Old and spent infested plants should be removed and burnt to prevent the dispersion of the mites to adjacent, uninfested crops. When rain occurs, thousands of the mites may be beaten to the ground and carried along with the surface water, and so come to rest in lower areas, and there infest other crops.

On plants such as Beans and Strawberries, a dust consisting of a mixture of—

Fine sulphur 1 lb.

Hydrated lime 1 lb.

may be used to control red spider. The dust may be applied at the rate of 150 lb. per acre, giving each plant two or three blasts from the duster.

Spraying with lime-sulphur at a dilution of—

Lime-sulphur solution . . . 1 gal.

Water 100 gal.

(1 fluid oz. to 5 pints of water) is also effective.

On Cucumbers, spraying has given better results than dusting, but for Beans and Strawberries the dust is more effective and easier to apply. With either the dust or the spray, two applications, with an interval of a week, are required.

For hardy shrubs a single application of white oil emulsion at a dilution of 1 in 40 (4 fluid oz. to 1 gallon of water), will give excellent control.

RIPE-SPOT OF APPLES.

Mr. G. G. Taylor, Plant Pathologist, and Mr. R. M. Brien, Mycologist Plant Diseases Division, Dept. of Scientific and Industrial Research, N.Z., say that ripe-spot of Apples, caused by the fungus *Neofabraea malicorticis*, has become of increasing economic importance during recent years.

Experiments suggest that the development of ripe-spot is influenced by the direct effect of storage temperature on growth of the fungus. It is still possible though, that this is

merely an indirect influence and the more important factor is fruit maturity.

In the orchard or in store, any practice, which leads to retardation of fruit maturity will assist in reducing susceptibility to ripe-spot.

The important factors are: (1) Earliness of picking to avoid advanced maturity on the trees; (2) minimum delay in placing the fruit in store to prevent the rapid increase in maturity which follows when fruit is held in sheds, trucks, etc., and exposed to high temperatures; (3) the use of any device to keep fruit in orchard store at the lowest temperature possible, and (4) the use of minimum temperatures in cool stores consistent with the normal temperature requirements of the fruit.

D.D.T.—THE MULTI-PURPOSE INSECTICIDE.

CONSIDERABLE INTEREST has been aroused in horticultural and biological circles by the release of the information regarding the multipurpose insecticide known as D.D.T. (para-paradichloro diphenyl—1:2:3 trichlorethan).

The Allies have used D.D.T. for the control of body lice responsible for the spread of typhus, and it appears that there are possibilities of its being used as a destroyer of horticultural pests.

The formula is not new as it was compounded by a German chemist 20 years ago, but its value was not fully realised until a few years ago, when

it was rediscovered by a Swiss scientist. Its value as an insecticide was proved in 1939, when the Swiss Potato crop was saved from destruction by the Colorado beetle.

The material may be used as a spray or a dust and retains its lethal power for a period of several weeks. Apart from killing pests which trouble men and animals—the following are also destroyed: thrips, aphids, Cabbage worms, Tomato worms, Japanese beetles, fruit moths and leaf hoppers.

So far all available supplies are in the hands of the authorities.

VICTORIAN FRUIT CROP ESTIMATES.

The forthcoming Apple crop in Victoria will be much below normal. A full crop of Pears is showing.

The Supt. of Hort. (Mr. J. M. Ward) forecasts that the Apple crop will be in the region of 1,109,130 bush. and Pears 1,225,680 bush.

The estimates for the main producing centres are as follow:—Mornington Peninsula: Apples 292,200, Pears 50,250; Harcourt, Strathfieldsaye, etc.: Apples 234,000, Pears 65,500; Metropolitan: Apples 191,650, Pears 299,700; Gippsland: Apples 141,350, Pears 20,680; Pomonal, Quantong, Amphitheatre, etc.: Apples 92,620, Pears 38,700; Bacchus Marsh, Geelong, Portland, etc.: Apples 88,800, Pears 6,500; North East Stanley, etc.: Apples 56,750; Goulburn Valley: Apples 2,840, Pears 706,950, with smaller quantities in the Diamond Creek Valley, etc.

The estimates for the main varieties of Apples are Jonathan 474,350,

Yates 84,200, Granny Smith 78,750, Romes 69,300, Dunns 56,050, Gravensteins 55,500, Cleos. 41,050, Delicious 36,810, Ballarat (Stewarts) 30,800, London Pippin 29,050, Statesman 26,650. For the main varieties of Pears:—W.B.C. 573,300, Packhams 249,000, Josephine 132,000, B. Bosc 125,200, Winter Nelis 57,000, W. Cole 20,850.

The estimated crop of stoned fruits is 1,710,970 bushels.

CANADIAN FRUIT CROPS.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics states that the 1944 Canadian crop is estimated at 15,339,100 bushels, which is 19 per cent. larger than the 1943 crop of 12,892,200 bushels.

The total Pear crop is estimated at 671,300 bushels, as compared with the 1943 crop of 636,800 bushels.

U.S.A. APPLE CROP.

The U.S.A. commercial Apple crop in 1944 is estimated at 122,268,000 bushels, 27 per cent. greater than the very short crop of 1943, but 5 per cent. less than the 1942 crop.

For the Western States (Washington, Oregon, etc.), commercial production was forecast at 42,881,000 bushels, 13 per cent. above 1943 and 6 per cent. more than 1942.

CONTROL OF FRUIT IN ENGLAND, 1944.

There has been some dissatisfaction this year in regard to the prices announced for certain fruits, and the National Farmers' Union published the following procedure adopted for recommendations for submission to the Ministry of Food:

The Fruit Committee (which is representative of all sections of growers from all parts of the country) meets and thoroughly investigates the position in all areas and then endeavours to arrive at conclusions on a national basis. Due regard is paid to the recommendations which are received from County Branches of the Union. A Negotiating Committee is then appointed and entrusted with the task of placing before the Ministry of Food the views of the main Committee.

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Extract from "BETTER FRUIT," by Dr. R. L. Webster, Entomologist, State College of Washington, Pullman: CODLING MOTH COVER SPRAYS—"Ever since the imposition of an arsenic tolerance in 1926, and even before that time, investigators have been testing other materials which may be used in place of lead arsenate. Following all these intensive and expensive investigations lead arsenate appears to have certain inherent qualities which place this material foremost as an insecticide for codling moth control."

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W.A.—Westralian Farmers' Ltd., 569 Wellington St., Perth.

N.Z.—Piney, Molnes Ltd., Box 1114, G.P.O., Auckland.

INTERSTATE AGENTS:

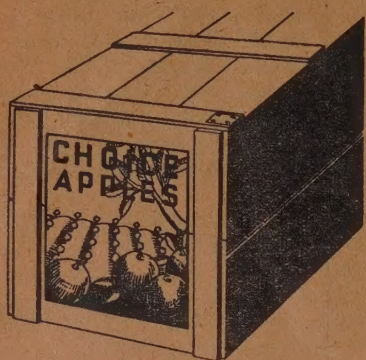
Tas.—SOUTHERN—Messrs. William Crosby & Co. Pty. Ltd., 119 Collins St., Hobart.

NORTHERN—Messrs. William Crosby & Co. Pty. Ltd., 32 Charles Street, Launceston. Depots: Exeter, West Tamar; also at Devonport and Latrobe.

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FRUIT GROWERS generally have come to depend on "Elephant" Brand Sprays. They find them absolutely reliable, efficient and of guaranteed quality.

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Good labels deserve a good paste—
poor labels demand it

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444**

**POWDERED ADHESIVE
IS THE PASTE**

that keeps the labels on your cases

Davis 444 Adhesive has instant tackiness and its excellent slip enables the label to be moved easily into correct position after placing on a case. Quick drying and non staining.

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ECONOMICAL—EASILY PREPARED—EASILY APPLIED

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IS YOUR ORCHARD IN ENEMY HANDS ?



Counter-attack — before they make your property "occupied territory." The moth lays its eggs which become grubs and they develop into chrysalis from which emerge the moth to carry on the invasion. Victory is yours if you spray at the right times, with lead arsenate and Gargoyle White Spraying Oil, the winning combination against the marauders

VACUUM OIL COMPANY PTY. LTD. (Incorporated in Australia)



**GARGOYLE
WHITE
SPRAYING OIL**

SP25

QUEENSLAND.

At the last meeting of the Other Fruits Sectional Group Committee of the C.O.D., Major P. J. Savage, presiding, many important matters were dealt with, including cases, nails, Strawberry handling, northern representation, etc.

The Bean Sub-Committee sought united action to totally prevent canvassing for consignments during the coastal Bean export season. As this affected Strawberry consignments also, the matter was deferred.

On the subject of split consignments (referred to by the Royal Commission) it was decided to recommend to Associations that splitting of consignments be discontinued and that this matter be referred to other sectional groups.

It was decided to approve of the extension for a year as from December, 1944, of the Papaw levy of 1d. for two cases; Fig levy 5/- per ton on factory deliveries; Tomato levy 1d. per case.

C.O.D. Citrus Committee.

The Citrus Sectional Group Committee of the C.O.D. met at Brisbane in November. Mr. W. J. Duggan presiding.

The financial statement was adopted. It was considered that a larger reserve fund was needed. It was decided that in order to establish a more adequate capital to meet post-war distribution problems, this Committee recommends to Associations an increase in the levy from 1d. to at least 1d. per case.

The manager tabled copy of the letter sent to the Controller General of Foodstuffs, outlining the unsatisfactory experience of the Queensland delegates to the Canberra Conference with reference to the Control Order.

The reply from the Department was also read and a resolution was carried expressing disappointment at the unsatisfactory nature of the reply to the manager's complaint in reference to the application of the control order.

INCREASED CROP LAND IN QUEENSLAND.

Despite the accumulated effects of wartime difficulties, Queensland farmers have continued to increase the crop of land under cultivation. The 1943-44 total of 1,756,000 acres was slightly higher than the previous record made in 1942-43, and was higher than the average for the last five pre-war years by 11 per cent.

RESPONSE OF QUEENSLAND GROWERS.

The ready response of Queensland farmers to the "Grow More Vegetables" campaign lifted the area sown with vegetables for human consumption from 34,900 acres in 1941-2 to 47,500 acres in 1942-43 and 67,400 acres in 1943-44.

LEAF MOULD OR MILDW
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Goulburn Valley News & Notes

S.P.C. Breaks All Former Records

TURNOVER FOR YEAR PASSED £1,000,000 MARK.

POST-WAR EXPORT PROBLEM RECEIVING ATTENTION.

HAVING already perused the balance sheet and report of Shepparton Fruit Preserving Company Limited, shareholders at the annual meeting held on December 20th in Shepparton East Hall, were prepared for a satisfactory address from the Managing Director, Mr. A. W. Fairley, but they hadn't visualised that the year's achievements meant the breaking of previous records in so many ways, which may be summarised in the following high water-mark figures:—

Turnover was £1,084,000.

Fruit and vegetable purchases amounted to £280,000.

Reserves alone equal £2/5/- per paid-up share in the Company. Shareholders' funds worth £3 per share.

Fixed Assets, originally costing £462,000, have now been depreciated by £298,304, and are shown in balance sheet as worth £164,000—not half value.

Bonus to growers now total £406,824.

Nett profit, £52,189—another record.

Mr. Fairley, however, stressed the uncertainty concerning post-war exports and urged that action be taken by growers to impress upon the Government the necessity of immediately considering this matter.

To ensure that the company would be in an advantageous position to meet the difficult times ahead, he urged that it was more important to them, as growers, rather than to the company, that they maintain a high standard of quality, so that no inferior fruit should be received into the canery.

Cr. R. Roberts, in seconding, said it was indeed a truly remarkable balance sheet. "I must frankly admit that I am confused by the millions quoted. It reflects great credit on the directors and management and a certain amount of reflected glory on the growers of the fruit," he added.

Very Little Discussion.

Mr. L. J. Michel asked if the Commonwealth Food Control Board had been approached on the matter of post-war markets.

The Chairman: The Commonwealth Government took evidence in Shepparton and our Board, on behalf of the Condiment Manufacturers' Association, gave evidence in Melbourne. We could wake up one morning and find the war over and our export markets gone.

The motion was carried without further discussion.

Directors Re-elected.

Messrs. T. H. Ray and J. J. Young, being the only nominations to the Board of Directors, were declared re-elected. Congratulations were extended to both, Mr. Ray having been with the company since its inception in 1917, while Mr. Young last year was of very great personal help, especially on the intake of Tomatoes.

Both gentlemen thanked shareholders for their re-election.

Auditor.

Mr. R. V. J. Stubbs was again appointed auditor of the company.

In responding, he congratulated the company on another record—that of passing the million pounds mark in their turnover.

Thanks of Shareholders.

Mr. Fairless, on behalf of shareholders, tendered thanks to the directors and staff on their magnificent effort. It is a sad reflection on the company that the directors' fees are only £100. They were proud that the company had passed so successfully through a difficult year.

He was supported by Mr. Neal Hanlon, who envisaged a big fight by the growers when they would have to hold the benefits they previously enjoyed. The directors are running

at high pressure, but all are doing more because of staff shortages.

The vote was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Fairley, responding, appreciated the vote of thanks to directors and staff. The co-operation between the company and growers had been closer than ever.

Hon. J. G. B. McDonald, Minister for Water Supply, joined Mr. Fairley in his remarks. He had not been able to take his usual interest in the growing and canning ends of the business. In thinking over the past 27 years he valued the experience and wisdom of Mr. Ray in guiding the company's affairs. Mr. Young, too, has taken up new duties in manufacture. "Mr. Fairley—you all know what I think of him—is doing a bigger war job than anyone. He is trusted by the Government and his advice is always accepted. He has also introduced many new ideas into the State Electricity Commission. "At the moment," he continued, "politics are so changeable that I might be back amongst you as plain Jack McDonald with redistribution of seats pending." My advice is that whatever you do, don't lower your standard of quality. We have tremendous issues to face up to in the post-war period for which planning should now be undertaken, especially our export markets. I have always opposed restriction of production"—

Mr. N. Hanlon: It didn't work out with wheat.

Mr. McDonald: It won't work in any industry.

:: :: ::

Chairman's Report.

Before proceeding with his address the Chairman (Cr. A. W. Fairley) tendered an apology for the absence of Wing Commander P. V. Feltham, a director, who was on service overseas, and who, since their last annual meeting, had received the decoration of M.B.E. Mr. Fairley, on behalf of the meeting, voiced their congratulations to Wing Commander Feltham on gaining the honour. An apology was also tendered for Mr. N. H. Dennis, who was on holidays. A welcome

was extended to Hon. J. G. B. McDonald, M.L.A., Minister for Water Supply and Electrical Undertakings, who is also a director.

The Chairman said:—

We are holding to-night the 27th annual general meeting of the company and the sixth since the outbreak of war in Europe. Although to-night's news from Europe is not good I believe we are justified in speaking with confidence of the successful outcome of the war; there must, however, be no slackening or easing off of our efforts until such time as complete security is assured.

Mainly through the intensified efforts to increase our output for the war requirements of the Government, your company has this year achieved a record year of production and the turnover has now passed the one million pound mark.

It is my pleasing duty to submit for consideration of shareholders the directors' report, balance sheet and profit and loss account for the year ended 31st October, 1944.

Profit.

The nett profit, after making full allowance for depreciation and taxation, is £52,189, which shows an increase of £7,608 as compared with the previous year.

Reserves.

You will note that the reserves now total £300,000, which amounts to an average of £2/5/- per share on all ordinary and preference shares issued in the capital of the company. These reserves are of utmost importance to the company and will be of even greater value in the post war period.

Turnover.

The total income from all sources has now reached the record figure of £1,084,000—an increase of over 100 per cent. during the last nine years. The percentage of profit earned was actually lower than that of the preceding year, but the increase in turnover enabled the company to show the improved financial result.

In this context, I think it is important to mention that the whole of our selling prices are fixed by the Prices Commission, and that under a formula provided for our industry,

— THE — BAVE-U POWER SPRAYER



All models can be fitted with pneumatic tyres at little extra cost.

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Pty. Ltd.**

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Descriptive
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● Wetsul

(Wettable Sulphur for Mildews)

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● Nicotine Insecticide

(40% Nicotine)

Obtainable at all Fruitgrowers' Associations, etc.

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SYDNEY

Interstate Distributors:

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Queensland Fruitgrowers' Society
Ltd.,
Makerston St., Brisbane.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA:

Elder Smith & Co. Ltd.,
Currie St., Adelaide.

TASMANIA:

A. G. Webster & Sons, Hobart.
Henry Jones & Co., Launceston.

WEST AUSTRALIA:

Westralian Farmers Ltd.,
Wellington St., Perth.

our profit margins are definitely limited and profits made in excess of the percentage allowed by the Commission are paid back to the Government.

Taxation.

The provision for taxation, now stands at £48,000, and this sum should be amply sufficient to meet income and other taxes payable during the twelve months.

Staff Provident Fund.

Out of the profits of the year a further sum of £3,000 has been placed in the staff provident fund, making the total contribution to that fund now £8,000.

I am pleased to announce that your Board has completed arrangements for implementing this fund, which will be of utmost benefit to the staff, and is tangible evidence by the company of its appreciation of their long and faithful service.

Fixed Assets.

Freehold property, buildings, machinery and plant total £164,500. Expenditure in this account for the year was £15,808, bringing the total capital expenditure for the past three

years to £59,580, of which £42,800 was expended by the company as a special war effort on buildings and plant for the production of foodstuffs exclusively for defence requirements. These wartime buildings and plant have been entirely financed from our own resources without any Government assistance.

Special depreciation has again been provided this year by the writing off of £29,451.

Current Assets.

Owing to the record production last year, current assets disclose an increase of almost £230,000 as compared with the figures of 1943.

Stocks amounted to £507,124—an increase over last year of £172,470. This increase is made up of heavier stocks of tinsplate and manufactured goods.

Trade debtors show an increase of £47,150, and Commonwealth War Loans have increased by £10,000 to £60,000.

Payments to Suppliers.

Payments made by the company during the past year for fruits and

vegetables totalled a record amount of £280,000. In continuation of its co-operative policy the company during the year again made additional payments to its suppliers on the same basis as in the preceding years. The total of these payments has now reached the figure of £406,824.

Production and Manpower.

The year's output of canned foodstuffs totalled over 24,000,000 cans, of which approximately 70 per cent. was supplied to the Defence services and the balance to meet essential civilian needs. The demands for our products to meet these requirements will again be substantial this coming year and all arrangements have been made to pack to the greatest possible capacity of our factories. From registrations received up to the present, it would appear that our ability to secure sufficient labour looks promising, but a disappointing feature is the reduction in the percentage of local female labour registering for work, which will intensify our accommodation problem.

Arrangements have again been made with the War Housing Division of the Department of Labour and National Service for Canberra House Hostel to be taken over for female employees, and also the recreation reserve camp for the accommodation of male workers. A canteen service at the camp will provide for both male and female factory workers.

Vegetable Production.

Our production of Tomato products this past year was increased by almost 100 per cent. over that of the preceding year, and new plant has been installed to greatly increase our production of Tomato juice for the coming season.

Pea Production.

The company entered into contracts for the growing of 400 acres of green peas for canning. Unfortunately, owing to the unfavourable dry season, the crops did not come up to expectations, therefore our production was very little greater than in the previous year. We believe the growing of Peas in our district will be payable to growers and are a splendid rotation crop; therefore the company is prepared to again contract this coming year for a minimum of 500 acres.

The Future.

At our last annual meeting I made reference to the need for the preparation of plans for the post war period, when it will be necessary for our industry to resume export. I also stated that to provide for our normal expansion and the replacement of plant at the cannery your directors had estimated that during this initial period of reconstruction an expenditure of approximately £60,000 would be required.

The difficulty of forecasting post war prospects will be realised, especially in the absence of any definite official advice as to whether Empire tariff preferences, which have proved such a vital factor in the development of export markets for canned fruits and practically all other Australian export industries, are likely to be maintained, modified or even eliminated.

This export problem will arise immediately the large demand for service requirements is cut down or eventually ceases altogether.

As there is very little prospect of an early material increase in Australian pre-war consumption, our industry will require to annually dispose of not less than 2,000,000 cases of canned fruits and 500,000 cases of jams, if we are to maintain our industry and provide for the increased orchard plantings which, I feel sure, will prove to be greater than those required for replacements.

The only export markets of any consequence available in the past have been within the British Commonwealth of Nations, all of which granted Australia tariff concessions.

**An Apple on the Tree
is worth
a bushel on the Ground**

"CLING-SPRAY"

(NAPHTHALENE ACETIC ACID)

Stops Preharvest Drop

Simply mix the contents of one 4 oz. bottle of "Cling-Spray" in 100 gallons of water, and spray in the normal manner, when the first few of the maturing fruits are observed to fall.

PACKED 24 BY 4 oz. BOTTLES PER CARTON

Price - - 11/6 per Bottle plus freight

VICTORIAN & TASMANIAN DISTRIBUTORS:

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222 Queen Street - - Melbourne

Supplies Obtainable All Agents

TENDERS

The Proprietors of the following Australian Patents:—
No. 109,542 dated 9th May, 1939,
entitled "Improvements in or relating to fruit bobbing devices."

Mark Ewald

are prepared to dispose of the whole or part interest in the patents, or grant licenses on ROYALTY, and invite tenders in respect of same in order to fulfil the full requirements of the trade and the public.

Address enquiries to Phillips, Ormonde, LePlastrier & Kelson, Fellows of the Institute of Patent Attorneys of Australia, Patent Attorneys, 419 Collins St., Melbourne.

There is very little prospect of development of trade beyond pre-war limits in either Canada or New Zealand as from information available, it can be assumed that these Dominions have developed their canning operations to meet war time food programmes.

We must therefore again look to the British market to absorb the greater volume of our exportable surplus. Inability to move this surplus would quickly cause deterioration in the Australian market, and ultimately force heavy restrictions of factory intake of fruit with lower returns to growers.

The introduction of the Empire tariff system enabled our industry to progress and expand its export markets, and while it is realised that broader issues associated with international post war policy may involve modification or a recasting of the principle of intra-empire trade laid down in the Ottawa Agreement, it is essential and vital to our industry that the preferences previously secured should be retained or, failing this, some provision made for annual import quotas based on our pre-war share of these markets. I believe, at the earliest opportunity, growers should make the strongest representations to the Commonwealth Government stressing the uncertainty that at present exists concerning post war export trading, and requesting immediate consideration of this matter.

Staff.

In conclusion, it is fitting that I should express, on behalf of the board, our appreciation and thanks to the staff and employees for the manner in which they have carried out their duties so loyally and efficiently under the most difficult conditions.

I now have pleasure in moving the adoption of the report and balance sheet and the appropriation of profits recommended therein. (Applause.)—"Shepparton News."

PICKING THE FRUIT CROP.

R.A.A.F. Men Available.

Growers' President Explains Arrangements.

"Straight Talk" by Mr. Fairless.

That fruitgrowers will be disciplined and prevented from "hiring and firing pickers as they liked," was made clear to Shepparton growers by the President, Mr. N. Fairless, at a meeting held in Shepparton East Hall on December 20, following the cannery meeting. He told members they would have to play the game or take the consequence.

After detailing conferences with representatives of the War Organisation of Industry, War Agricultural Committee, and Manpower—he got them all together—it was finally agreed to send the 300 schoolboys (who arrived on Wednesday) and to make 350 Air Force men available for fruit picking.

These workers were to be guaranteed full employment for the periods which growers had indicated on their application forms, and the Association would be responsible for the rates of pay.

The R.A.A.F. men would be subject to R.A.A.F. control, while the

boys would be in charge of camp commandants. Representatives of growers would act as liaison officers to deal with differences between employers and employees.

"We are going to try and organise supply by picking up and delivering to orchards, but that is your expense," he said.

They will have to be paid from the time they leave camp till their return, so that, in the event of any accident on the way, they will be covered by the Workers' Compensation Act.

In reply to Mr. T. Dobson it was stated that the week's work would be 44 hours.

Mr. W. Mulconry: What about the holiday period?

Mr. Fairless: The boys get a flat rate of £3/10/-, plus time and a half for overtime on holidays, including Christmas Day. If they don't work on a holiday they are not paid.

Mr. L. J. Michel thought it would be better to make a levy rather than charge each grower separately for the men conveyed to their work.

Not Taxable.

The wages of the schoolboys will not be subject to pay-as-you-earn taxation.

Keep Same Men Right Through.

Mr. L. Knight was informed that he could keep the same men right through the season.

Liable for What They Order.

A grower is free to make his own arrangements, but where he has asked for a certain number of men he would be expected to pay for them unless they can be used elsewhere, but there won't be any of this "helping your neighbour business."

5,400 TONS OF PEARS.

Earmarked for Cannery and Perry's.

Prices for Apricots, Peaches, Pears, 10/- Higher.

It seems no time since 1,000 and 1,200 tons of Pears for a season's processing by Shepparton Cannery were considered big figures, yet on December 20, at the annual meeting of S.P.C., the managing director (Mr. A. W. Fairley) announced that the cannery would require 3,500 tons, and S. J. Perry and Co. 94,000 cases, while other cannery commitments would absorb over 100 tons—a grand total of 5,600 tons! In addition, large quantities would be sent by growers to Melbourne and Sydney.

Mr. Fairless, when asked for his confirmation of the figures, remarked, "The codling moth will get all that's over."

Prices Announced.

Prices announced by the Sugar Concession Committee were the same as last year for Plums and Quinces, but Apricots, Peaches and Pears would be 10/- per ton higher.

Other conditions for the receipt of fruit, said Mr. Fairley, would be the same as last season.

Holiday Deliveries.

Fruit would be received at the cannery on Christmas Day from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. to allow the staff time off for the Xmas dinner, but on Boxing Day ordinary hours would be observed.

ARDMONA HAS GOOD YEAR.

Cannery Shows £17,208 Profit.

Increase of £4,458 on Last Year.

The annual report and balance sheet of the Ardmona Fruit Products Co-operative Co. Ltd. just received, shows that this progressive company has had another splendid year. After providing £6,505 for taxation, and £2,500 for depreciation, a profit of £17,208 was made compared with £12,750 last year.

At the annual meeting of shareholders, held at the Ardmona Hall on Monday, January 1, at 8 p.m., the Chairman of Directors, Mr. H. E. Pickworth, reported: "On behalf of your directors, I have pleasure in presenting to you the balance sheet and statement of accounts, together with the annual report of your company's operations for the year ended 31st October, 1944.

"Before referring to the operations of the company, the directors wish to record the very deep regret felt by them and all shareholders on the occasion of the sad death of Mr. N. L. McKean, a director of the company since 1940. The company was indebted to the late gentleman for very able and continuous assistance given, and his passing is a distinct loss to the company and the district. Mr. S. P. Cornish accepted the directors' invitation to fill the vacancy thus caused.

"The nett profit of the company for the year after providing £6,505 for taxation and £2,500 for depre-

ciation amounted to £17,208. The whole of the profits have been used to reduce the accumulated deficit of the company. It is the opinion of the directors that the result of the year's operations have not been materially affected (as disclosed in the profit and loss account) by items of an abnormal character."

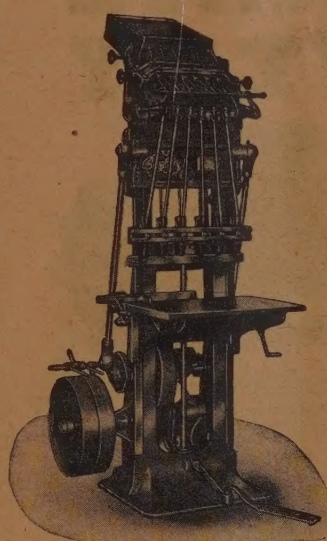
EXPANSION OF AUSTRALIAN CANNING.

Before the war, Australia was not canning any Sweet Corn, Silver Beet, Parsnips or Tomato juice, the production estimate for 1944 is 130,000 cases of Sweet Corn, 75,000 cases of Silver Beet, 14,000 cases of Parsnips, and 568,000 cases of Tomato juice.

Before the war the output of tinned Cabbage and Beetroot was about 14,000 cases, but it is expected to equal 1,000,000 cases this year. Production of tinned Peas will be 283,000 cases, and Tomato pulp more than 1,500,000 cases. Greater expansion is expected in 1945.

N.Z. FRUIT MARKETING COUNCIL

At the recent poll to decide on members to the N.Z. Fruit Marketing Council, Mr. A. C. M. Ward was elected for Hawke's Bay, and Mr. H. R. Sampson, for Canterbury. Members returned unopposed were Mr. L. B. Robinson for Nelson and Mr. J. Hainsworth for Otago. At the time of receiving this information the result of the poll for the Auckland district was not known.



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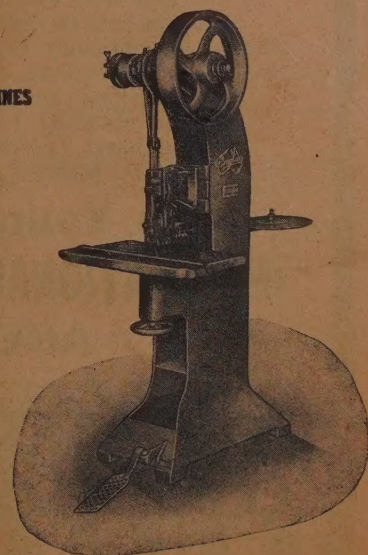
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Pty. Ltd.

Complete Canning Plants

**MEAT,
FRUIT AND VEGETABLES**

Modern Machinery of
Guaranteed Workmanship
and Performance.

**COMPLETE BOX ASSEMBLING
EQUIPMENT.**



Corrugated Fastener Cleating Machine.

HENRY JONES CO-OP.**Labour Problem Serious.****Investments Sound.**

"While we cannot indulge in any trading prophecy, we can give positive assurance that investments of Henry Jones Co-operative Ltd. are as sound as you and ourselves could wish them to be," said the Chairman (Mr. A. W. Palfreyman) at the annual meeting recently.

Outstanding item in the past year's accounts was that profit was £41,332 less than 1942-43. This was brought about by almost impossible trading

and labour conditions and the control of the business being taken largely out of directors' hands, Mr. Palfreyman said.

General reserve was now £1,457,000, exceeding for the first time issued capital of £1,430,000. In addition, the company had a dividend equalisation reserve of £200,000.

These reserves supplied evidence of the conservative policy followed since inception of the company 35 years ago, and the same conservative policy was followed in the previous 19 years before the proprietary was converted.

54 Thrifty Years.

Fifty-four years was a long period to practise thrift, but a sound be-

ginning and a steady continuance of that policy had given the business considerable strength, the Chairman added. The cumulative savings had enabled investment of £521,000 in war loans, of which £69,000 had been subscribed this year.

In these anxious times directors had hoped that plants would be able to work to capacity and without interruption, but labour shortage had caused disappointment and anxiety. The company's pack of canned fruits, instead of being 50 per cent. more than in 1939-40, was 50 per cent. less.

This had caused considerable loss to fruit suppliers and the company. Loss would have been much greater had not a considerable quantity of canning fruit been diverted to jam manufacture.

As with fruit growing, the company's industry called for a large supply of seasonal labour, and when that was unobtainable heavy losses must be incurred.

Difficulties were increased by disinclination of the company's employees to work overtime. This was more pronounced than at any time since the war; it contrasted most unfavourably with pre-war years. Chief objection to overtime work was traceable to taxation.

Jam and canning fruits in Victoria and Tasmania promised exceedingly well this season, but other States were far below average. The company's tinplate position was satisfactory.

Australian factories were now producing 170,000,000 lb. of jam yearly, twice pre-war production. Directors were pleased to say that the embargo on jam exports had been removed, and, although Australia for some years had lost the whole of its jam export trade to Great Britain, a fair share of it must be recovered.

The fruit industry in post-war would receive its hardest knock—its existence would be imperilled—if Australia did not succeed in recovering export markets. It depended on these to absorb one-half of jams and canned fruits produced, Mr. Palfreyman concluded.

CANNING FRUIT PRICES.**Higher Than Last Season.**

An increase of 10/- a ton, compared with last season, in fruit processors' minimum prices to growers for new season's Apricots, Peaches and Pears was announced by the Fruit Industry Sugar Concession Committee secretary (Mr. W. J. Adams).

It was stated that increases had been granted chiefly because of higher production costs, which were due mainly to a shorter working week for orchard employees.

Prices for Plums and Quinces were unchanged. Prices for berry fruits also were unaltered, except for a rise of 1d. a lb. in loganberries.

New season's prices, a ton, were:—Apricots, £17 (canning), £15 (jam),

FRUIT CASES

Dump or Long Bushel, direct from Mill to User. Quality guaranteed. Case Nails, Strawboards, Wrapping Paper, etc.
IVAN F. STEBBINS
Hardware Merchant,
623 COLLINS ST., MELB., C.I.

Clingstone Peaches — clear centres, £16, £12; other centres, £15, £12. Freestone Peaches, £12/10/-, £12; Pears, £15, —. Plums, —, £10. Quinces, £10, £9.

REGISTRATION OF MANUFACTURERS OF FRUIT PULPS, FRUIT JUICES AND PURE FRUIT ESSENCES.

The chairman of the Fruit Industry Sugar Concession Committee stated that his Committee was now compiling a list of manufacturers of fruit pulps, fruit juices and pure fruit essences for its use in connection with the 1945 fruit season's operations.

Manufacturers who propose to claim on the Committee for domestic sugar rebate and who purchase fruit pulps, fruit juices or pure fruit essences, will qualify for the rebate only if such purchases are made from manufacturers of fruit pulps, fruit juices and pure fruit essences who are on the Committee's approved list for 1945.

Any manufacturer of fruit pulps, fruit juices and pure fruit essences who desires to be listed should lodge his application not later than January 15, 1945, with the Chairman, Fruit Industry Sugar Concession Committee, c/o Trade and Customs Department, Canberra, A.C.T.

Pointing to the value of dehydrating vegetables in providing an outlet for primary production, the Minister for Commerce and Agriculture, Mr. Scully, said recently that dehydration was a major food industry to-day.

Taken with the canning of vegetables, it made food processing an industry of very great value to Australia.

Vegetable processing in Australia was now about 35 times greater than it was before the war, Mr. Scully added.

Canning had increased twentyfold, while dehydration, which was unknown in Australia before the war, had now reached an annual rate of 67,000 tons intake, equal to about 10,000 tons of dried vegetables.

Mr. Scully revealed that 33 dehydrating units were now operating in Australia; of which many were principally drying food other than vegetables. Recently the 27th factory to undertake the drying of vegetables as a major project was opened.

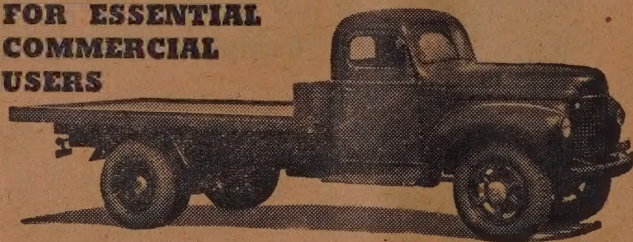
Dehydrating and canning were absorbing a significant proportion of Australia's greatly increased vegetable production.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS AND NOTES

Official Reports and Notes of the South Australian Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association.

S.A. FRUITGROWERS' AND MARKET GARDENEERS' ASSOCIATION, INCORP.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Apple and Pear Section of the above Association was held in the Newmarket Board Room on Friday, 15th December, 1944, at 2.15 p.m.

The Chairman (Mr. C. Legh Winsor) occupied the chair, and 24 growers signed the attendance register.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Messrs. A. Filsell, W. J. Bishop, W. G. McLaren, H. N. Brookman and Harris & Son.

The minutes of the 1943 Annual General Meeting were read and confirmed.

Correspondence: Letter received from S.A. Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries asking for a conference between merchants and growers to discuss Apple and Pear marketing during the 1945 season.

The Chairman intimated that this matter would receive the early attention of the new committee to be appointed by the meeting.

Chairman's Annual Report: The Chairman (Mr. C. Legh Winsor) presented his report as follows:—

Gentlemen,—Two years ago you appointed a Committee to formulate plans for the marketing of Apples and Pears, and during the first year, after a most anxious start and a good deal of work, the Committee were able to report a very satisfactory season. Then this year we began again, hoping to improve, and full of optimism, but with a similar crop as regards numbers, we have fared worse. Now you cannot blame the Committee for this. First of all, you would not give the Committee any real guide as to the actual drop, and we were always working with insufficient data to know what was ahead of us, but we do claim that through our efforts we raised the initial prices of Apples by 2/- a case, and consider £50,000 was gained to growers. The Committee also feel that growers were led astray by the prices branch announcing ceiling rates which many thought would be automatic, and led to them not accepting F.O.R. sales when offered. Actual production is hard to assess. Cold store figures on 1st June were 350,000, and it was estimated at least 50,000 cases held in common storage.

The Department of Agriculture estimates 900,000 cases of Apples for 1944, and gives 600,000 as a preliminary figure for 1945. The Committee

arranged export for 65,300 cases this year, against twice that quantity last year. The Committee arranged for cold storage for 28,000 cases in Adelaide, and report that some of this was not satisfactory, and is endeavouring to secure an adjustment.

The Society selling floor has operated during the season, and from a small beginning a good connection has been built up. The establishment has proved beneficial, having provided definite information and acted as a policeman on the local market. The Society will make every endeavour to increase its activities as manpower allows.

Merchants Agreement: After considerable negotiation and many meetings, arrangements were completed with merchants to handle fruit during the season. An agreement was made with the Wholesale Fruit Merchants' Association under which they agreed to sell on behalf of growers, either on consignment or sale, all payments to growers being made from the Wholesale Fruit Merchants Office.

Under the agreement the right for growers and market men to operate was protected. It was agreed that in the event of rationing becoming necessary, agents would be supplied on a pro rata basis, according to the quantities handled earlier in the season. The committee feel that the merchants generally are anxious to do their part in the distribution of our goods, and we feel that there is a better spirit of co-operation than previously. During the season a sub-committee—three growers, three merchants, with Mr. Bartram as Chairman, was appointed to closely watch the market, and make recommendations to the full committee, the grower members, on merchants' suggestion, to be paid for attending, £1/1/- per meeting, plus travelling expenses being the amount decided. When in October, the merchants included Apples in the list of fruit and vegetables which they were not prepared to handle to the country, the Committee met and had several conferences at which the merchants were informed that an agreement had been made with them to handle the fruit, and that margins in dispute were then operating, and it was therefore considered that they let us down badly. We requested assurance that within two or three days the matter would be rectified, otherwise we would be forced to reconsider the position. For your information the

prices order allows 1/- bushel margin of profit on sales of open cases, and an additional 6d. per case to cover cost of lid cartage to rail or boat, and this was the merchants' main trouble in regard to Apples.

In February Mr. Eitzen was appointed as fruit distributor, and for a while rendered material assistance in the distribution and sales. But in August, feeling that the committee were not giving him full support, he resigned.

Mr. H. J. Fenton was approached, and he agreed to fill the vacancy.

Advertising: The Committee carried out an extensive advertising campaign in the country press, city press and screen advertisements. Several circulars had been drafted and forwarded to retail fruiterers in country and metropolitan areas.

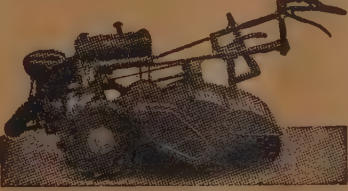
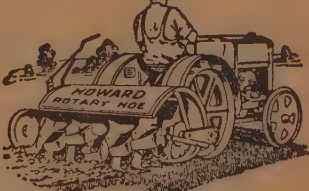
Distribution: The matter of distributing case lots has been considered. This the merchants inform us had been tried by them without success, and the retailers objected to the idea. Negotiations were made regarding deliveries to suburbs, and this matter will receive further consideration. We have also considered the travelling Apple Shop method of distribution, and this also it is planned to further consider if and when the crop warrants.

Packing Organisation: I believe that under this heading we have the most important decisions to make. We are, as it were, at the cross roads, our Chief Horticulturist is advocating and urging action to rebuild our ma-

chinery and replace the fruit processors which the war has disbanded. We must prepare to fit this important industry to work into its proper place. It is necessary for our cold stores and packing shed organisations to take upon themselves the job of organising the necessary labour. 1944 has given us proof positive of what can be done with quality. During this season we have been faced with the problem of placing a surplus of Apples. You have been told the history in brief; early f.o.r. sales were possible to Sydney on market fully supplied from Tasmania and Victoria. Quite a few of those Apples were placed in Sydney cold stores by the buyer, and later it became impossible for us to make sales. A meeting of Country Cold Stores Association went so far as to recommend that no consignment fruit be forwarded, as it was claimed by Sydney agents that it was possible to buy in Sydney at considerably below landed cost on f.o.r. values. The position did not improve. We had Apples to sell, but the sizes were not popular. Later by gradually working in small lots of well graded selected fruit, well packed on consignment, it has been possible for one shed to sell in Sydney quite a worthwhile quantity at satisfactory rates, proving that the public will pay for genuine consistent regularly graded fruit; Apples below that standard prices were definitely unpayable.

We are approaching a new era, and are now ready to embark on a new

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HOWARD ROTARY HOE
 The Modern Method of Tillage.
 Supreme in its eradication of Blackberries, Ferns, Noxious Weeds, etc.
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 Note: Hoe easily detached and Tractor suitable for general work. "MURRAY HOIST TOOL BAR ALSO GEAR DRIVE POWER TAKE-OFF" available now.

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ASSETS EXCEED £22,000,000
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Definite Concessions offered to Shareholders.

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Manufacturers: **The Electrolytic Refining & Smelting Co. of Aust. Pty. Ltd. Port Kembla, N.S.W.** (Incorporated in N.S.W.)

policy. It is necessary, and I think possible, for sheds to take over the responsibility of organising and processing the fruit in their immediate localities to ensure its best presentation. The consumers must be given that which they demand. Quality fruit, true to specification, and honestly prepared from top to bottom. The wholesale and retail trade must be supplied with an article which carries the guarantee of the industry. A label or brand definitely stating the shed of origin is required. By this means, all would be aiming to prepare the best. Orders from customers would stipulate the brand required. From this set up would develop the standard for future export business. Gone would be the old system of "How bad can I put 'em in and still get away with it." In-

stead will be a pack attractive, true to detail and sought after by the consumers.

You may say where is the labour? Growers always see the impossible first, but all your fruit, even now, gets some sort of processing. With skilled labour, very little extra time would be taken. I visualise the wholesaler lodging his orders for prepared nailed-down packages ordered by customers according to their particular request as regards shed.

You will be able to demand full value for added costs of preparation. We want statistics. Where better to look for them than from cold store and packing shed managers or executive officers.

Export: As regards export, under existing conditions, interstate is the only immediate market. It is very

necessary that all share. If it had been possible for all sheds to dispose of fruit when business was possible this year, much greater quantities could have been dealt with. Under this arrangement, all would share in the enhanced values which would result.

The committee is considering the appointment of a traveller to visit growers, sheds and cold stores, in turn acting as adviser, calling on retailers, pushing sales and opening up new avenues of distribution. To carry out this programme the guarantee of each grower's support is essential.

Levy: A small sum to ask to provide funds to have an organisation to help voluntarily control our interests. We find quite a number of growers will not pay this, and apparently are prepared to allow the other

fellow to carry the financial obligations. I would like to stress the voluntary side of all this. The committee does not want any compulsion, and does not wish to dictate to anyone. They give their time and thought voluntarily to the job, but to make a success they must have funds to employ executives.

Committee Meetings: At last General Meeting, Mr. F. F. Redden tendered his resignation. At a subsequent meeting the resignation was accepted, and Mr. W. G. McLaren

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For Supplies
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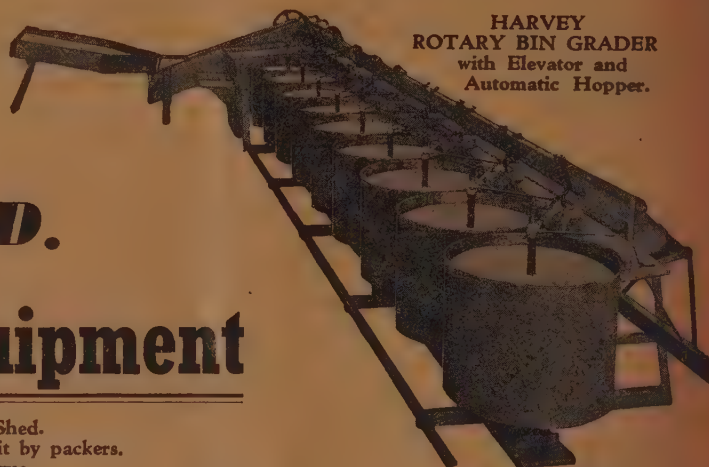
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ROTARY BIN GRADER
with Elevator and
Automatic Hopper.

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Stem punctures and bruises eliminated. Write for catalogue.

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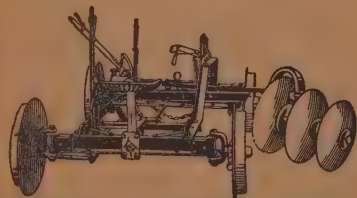
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"HARVEY" built "PETTY" PLOW: Plows out strips which have not been plowed for years. Cuts through couch grass with the greatest of ease. Also plows up to the trees and in the centre. **DISC CULTIVATING GANG** can be attached in place of Disc Plow Gang.



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"HARVEY" PATENT OFFSET TANDEM DISC CULTIVATOR: Cultivates right up to the butts of the trees or vines while the Tractor is driven right out in the middle of the row. Proved to be an excellent machine for deeply cultivating heavy irrigation land.



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"HARVEY" PATENT OFFSET TANDEM
TRACTOR DISC CULTIVATOR.

Cuts out all hand working under citrus trees, and keeps the ground level. Specially designed to work right under the limbs up to the trunks of the Orange and Lemon trees. Will lift limbs loaded with fruit off the ground, cultivating to any predetermined depth, and then gently putting back in position the fruit-bearing limbs without injuring the fruit or fibrous roots. Cuts out all weeds without clogging.

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S.A.—Silbert, Sharp & Bishop, Mundle St., East Adelaide.
W.A.—Paterson & Co. Ltd., St. Georges Terrace, Perth.
S.A.—Cole & Woodham, Box 12, Renmark.

Southern Tasmania—Wm. Crosby & Coy. Pty. Ltd., Collins St., Hobart.
Northern Tasmania—Max Geeves, 177 Brisbane St., Launceston.
Queensland—Busacott (Queensland) Ltd., 443 Adelaide St., Brisbane.

was appointed to fill the vacancy. In all, sixteen committee meetings have been held, and some members on many more occasions have met in connection with the affairs of this section, and I do want you all to realise that they have not been idle, and have given much of their time and not little actual cost in travelling expenses. I have heard it said that members on the committee are only there for what they get out of it. My answer to that is anything they may get is available to every member. I feel sure that you are grateful to the members of the committee for what they have tried to do, and realise that without them our whole position would have been really bad. I would like here to place on record my thanks for their patience and kindness to me. I can assure you, gentlemen, we have had some difficult times, but everyone has tried to do all they could for the good of the industry.

When contentious matters were under discussion, it was the custom of the committee to invite cold store executive officers and private cold store owners to assist in the debate. Under date, 24th August, 1944, a letter was received from the South Australian Country Cool Stores Association requesting representation and all co-operative cool stores, with the exception of Gumeracha and Cudlee Creek, were represented on the committee. These two stores were asked to nominate representatives, and Messrs. C. Jamieson and E. Hannaford have now been appointed; five privately-owned stores were asked to nominate one representative, but as yet no reply has been received.

We are constantly thinking over and discussing the many problems confronting the industry, the solutions

of which depend on the real support which growers are prepared to give.

At present acting on the committee we have:—Four Growers: C. L. Winsor, W. G. McLaren, S. M. James, H. N. Wicks. Four Cold Stores: A. Filsell, A. E. Brealey, E. Hannaford. Society: W. J. Bishop and A. G. Strickland, Chief Horticulturist.

That, gentlemen, completes my report. You will see on the notice paper our recommendations.

Finance: The Secretary stated that as the financial year of the section did not end until 31st December, 1944, he was unable to present an audited statement, covering the 1944 season financial operations, but that he would present an estimated statement of receipts and payments for the period mentioned.

The statement revealed that despite decreased income the year's operations were carefully handled, with a slight credit balance in hand.

Mr. C. L. Winsor, supported by Mr. H. N. Wicks, moved that both the chairman's and the financial report be received. Carried.

Marketing Plan for 1945: The Chairman stated that, as shown by the notice paper, the committee had made several recommendations concerning the 1945 season, but before these could be dealt with, it would first be necessary for the meeting to decide whether the marketing plan of 1944 was to be continued during 1945.

Mr. E. B. Chamberlain moved: "That for the 1945 Apple and Pear season the Section continue to operate a marketing plan on similar lines to that conducted during the 1944 season. Seconded by Mr. G. H. Schultz. Carried.

1945 Committee: In view of the committee's recommendations in this regard, Mr. R. B. Pritchard, supported by Mr. Elliott Hannaford, moved: "That the resolution laying down the procedure to be adopted for the election of the committee, as passed at the 1944 Annual General Meeting, be rescinded." Carried.

It was then resolved that the recommendation of the committee, namely, "That the 1945 Season Apple and Pear Committee comprise the following representatives:—

"(a) One representative from each co-operative cool store.

"(b) One representative from each country co-operative cool store.

"(c) One representative representing privately-owned cool stores.

"(d) One representative from the Fruitgrowers and Market Gardeners' Society Ltd., and

"(e) Mr. A. G. Strickland (Chief Horticulturist), be adopted."

It was further resolved that each Co-operative Country Cool Store be written asking them to each elect a representative, and that privately-owned Country Cool Stores be asked to elect a representative to represent them on the committee.

Mr. J. Turner moved: "That the Fruitgrowers and Market Gardeners' Society Ltd. be asked to appoint a representative on the committee." Seconded Mr. C. Jamieson. Carried.

Mr. H. N. Wicks was elected as one committeeman representing growers not connected with a co-operation cool store, and it was resolved that the Forest Range Fruitgrowers' Society Ltd. be asked to appoint the other grower.

The meeting expressed its appreciation of the interest and assistance

afforded the industry by the Chief Horticulturist (Mr. A. G. Strickland) and hoped he would continue to sit on the committee during 1945.

Market Sales. Director: Mr. R. B. Pritchard moved: "That written applications be invited for the position of Market Director during 1945. Seconded Mr. J. Turner. Carried.

Outside Organiser: Following lengthy discussion on the appointment of an outside organiser, Mr. Elliott Hannaford moved, supported by Mr. H. N. Wicks: "That, provided the committee deem the appointment of an outside organiser warranted, such appointment be made." Carried.

Levy: The Chairman pointed out that as revealed by the financial statement the 2d. per case levy during 1944 provided only sufficient revenue to keep the marketing plan solvent, and in view of additional staff appointments, it was considered essential that the levy be increased to 3d. per case.

Mr. G. H. Schultz moved: "That for the 1945 season a levy of 3d. per case be struck." Seconded Mr. R. G. Hannaford. Carried. Mr. W. Miller, representing Balhannah growers, wished it recorded that his district favoured 2d. per case levy for 1945, but was opposed to 3d. per case.

Delegates to Association Executive Committee: The following were appointed as Sectional Delegates to the Association Executive Committee:—Messrs. M. J. Vickers, N. G. Hannaford, S. M. James, C. L. Winsor, C. Filsell, G. Clifton, F. F. Redden, H. H. Schultz, W. G. McLaren and E. B. Chamberlain.

Stocks: It was reported that present Apple stocks in store stood at 45,000 cases. In the light of the many problems of recent months, the



Prevent pre-harvest drop!

Spraying with "Phyomone" about a fortnight before picking prevents the weakening of the stalk and consequent pre-harvest drop.

Dropped fruit is virtually useless, but picked fruit retains full flavour, colour and value.

Trials were conducted in 1941 by Government Agricultural Departments on different types of

fruit in Victoria and South Australia, with spectacular results. One Government test recorded a loss of only 9% from sprayed trees compared with 41% from unsprayed trees.

Application is simple . . . merely spray it on the trees so that fruit stems are wetted. Time: 10 to 14 days before maturity.

DISTRIBUTORS:—N.S.W.: Wm. Cooper & Nephews (Australia) Pty. Ltd. VICTORIA: Ramsay and Treganowan Ltd. QUEENSLAND: A.C.F. & Shirleys Fertilizers Ltd. SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Elder Smith & Co. Ltd. WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Westralian Farmers Ltd. TASMANIA: Chemical and Textile Agencies Pty. Ltd.



PHYOMONE

AN I.C.I. PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCT

stock position was considered very satisfactory.

Committee Fees: Mr. R. B. Pritchard moved: "That committeemen be remunerated for services rendered on the basis of £1.1/- per meeting attended, plus travelling expenses. Payment to the retrospective to 1944 season." Seconded Mr. M. G. Hannaford. Carried.

Cases with Fruit: Mr. J. Turner objected to the inclusive cost principle of pricing fruit and moved: "That the committee in its wisdom when pricing fruit during the 1945 season, separate the cost of the case from that of the fruit." Seconded Mr. R. B. Pritchard. Carried.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.5 p.m.

NEW DISTRICT WAR AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE SET UP IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

A NEW committee, called the Central District War Agricultural Committee, has been set up in South Australia. District War Agricultural Committees are doing most useful work in regard to the maintenance and extension of the production of essential foodstuffs, but, until the formation of the new Central Committee, the full force of the scheme has not been applied to the important vegetable growing activities of the State, because the principal areas utilised for vegetable production have been included in a district, which was much too large.

The chief function of the Central Committee will therefore be connected with fruit and vegetable production.

The area of this district is divided into corporations and district councils,

and to comply with statistical returns in all cases, the whole corporation and council areas are enclosed by the boundary line.

This district consists of all the corporations and district councils contained in an area bounded by a line starting on the sea coast just north of the Outer Harbour at the north-west corner of the council area of the City of Port Adelaide, following the northern boundaries of Port Adelaide and Enfield District Councils, then North East and South along the boundaries of Teatree Gully District Council South along the Eastern boundary of East Torrens District Council. South Westerly, west and north along the boundary of the Stirling District Council to its junction with the Mitcham Council to the Marion District Council, then Southerly, and next along the Marion Council boundary to the sea coast near Hellett's Cove, Northerly along the sea coast to the starting point above the Outer Harbour.

The personnel of the Central D.W.A.C. is as follows:—

Mr. N. R. Quinn, Department of Agriculture (Chairman, and Executive Officer).

Mr. A. R. Martin, Grower, Gage-street, Firlie.

Mr. C. Grigg, Grower, Uraidla.

Mr. S. R. P. Walker, Grower, Johnstone-road, Warradale.

Mr. L. F. Hackett, English, Scottish and Australian Bank, Rundle-street, Adelaide.

Mr. R. J. Coffen, National Service Officer.

Mr. A. Stuart, Secretary.

The committee's office is situated in the Savings Bank Building, 176 Rundle-street, Adelaide. The telephone No. is Central 1266.

Hereunder is a brief summary of the service which D.W.A.C. can render to the producer:—

Farmers generally realise that the production of foodstuffs is their part of the war effort, and have done wonderfully good work in this regard, but to reach all of the present production goals will need hard and sustained effort and also all the assistance that can be given through District War Agricultural Committees.

It is not possible to obtain increased production without adequate manpower or materials, and a great deal of work done by the War Committees is due to the assistance given to farmers in obtaining manpower and a fair share of materials which are in short supply at present.

The co-operation between the Department of Labour and National Service and District War Agricultural Committees is almost perfect in South Australia, due largely to the fact that National Service officers are full

members of the District Committees. It is the duty of the National Service Department to obtain the necessary seasonal labour for farms and of the District War Agricultural Committees to distribute it.

When farmers apply for special discharge of personnel from the military forces for rural work, each case is carefully investigated by local and district war agricultural committees and certain recommendations made. The application is then dealt with by the National Service Department, and finally by army authorities. Consideration by D.W.A.C. is concerning whether the release of the men asked for is justified from an agricultural production point of view. It must be understood, however, that the Department of Labour and National Service and also the Army authorities are compelled to take many other factors into consideration, and so only a proportion of the men recommended by D.W.A.C. are finally released.

The committees have also assisted in the allocation of prisoners of war to farm work in South Australia.

There is no pool of seasonal labour at present available in this State, seasonal workers must be drawn temporarily from the permanent farm force, and in making these arrangements, district and local committeemen are very useful.

All agricultural machinery is controlled, the greater part of it under a comparatively easy control, where the vendor guarantees the sale to be essential, but some items in short supply, as tractors, all engines, shearing plants and windmills must be released by permit from the State Controller of Agricultural Machinery, who gets the necessary recommenda-

GROWERS — Consign Your Fruit and Vegetables to Agents who are Members of N.S.W. Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries

LIST OF MEMBERS

Fruit Section.

Allen, Stan.	Holmes, J., Pty. Ltd.	Sandrin, A.
Associated Growers' Selling Agency.	Hopkins & Lipscombe.	Scaramuzzi, C.
Banana Growers' Distributors.	Hop Lee & Co.	Schuster, A. E.
Billett, E. J.	Isaacs, L. B., & Sons.	Sherringham & Co.
Black & Son.	Jenkins, John.	Silk Bros. (Interstate Traders) Pty. Ltd.
Bragg, R.	Jurd, W. A.	Sinclair, W. J.
Broadbent, R. J.	Kellaway, C. G., & Sons.	Slater, J., Pty. Ltd.
Bromley, W. E.	Kennett, F. C.	Southcott, W. H.
Brooks, P.	Kirkwood, J. W.	Spurway, E. A.
Bryant, J. W.	Lee, Fook & Co., E.	Stanton, E. T.
Bryant, L. J.	Lockart, H. C.	Stass, G. and Co.
Buhl, F., & Son.	Martin, C. R.	Stevens, F. G., & Sons.
Buhl & Hacking.	Mason, A., & Co.	Sun Lee & Co.
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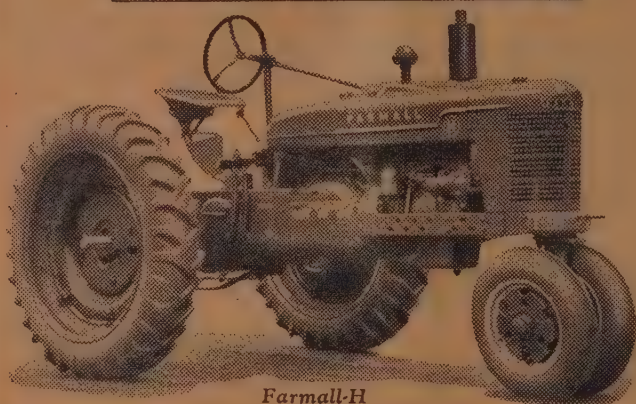
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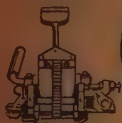
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tions from District War Agricultural Committees.

The Ministry of Munitions, through the Directorate of Materials Supply, controls all metals. The most important items, from a farm point of view, are fencing wire, water piping and bore casing, and the Directorate of Materials Supply accepts the recommendations of D.W.A.C.'s regarding release of these commodities.

Orders for fencing wire are dealt with by Mr. M. D. W. Hall, an officer of the Department of Agriculture, but those of considerable quantity are referred to the committees. Orders can be made direct to the distributing firms, or by letter to the Department of Agriculture, giving full details, and plan, if possible, of proposed fencing, mentioning name of supplier through whom wire is to be purchased, and class of primary production engaged in.

Deliveries of water piping are in most sizes, several months behind orders. Piping should be ordered from the required firm, filling in the necessary P1 form.

Each order is investigated by the local war agricultural committee, endorsed by district committee and forwarded through the wholesale firms, or from the D.W.A.C. Adelaide office to the Directorate of Materials Supply for release.

The liaison officer between D.W.A.C. and Directorate of Materials Supply is Mr. H. R. Brock.

Because of rubber shortage replacement of tractor tyres is very difficult. These are dealt with by a State Tractor Tyre Advisory Committee, and releases are made only on recommendations by the Chairmen of District War Agricultural Committees. The position is such that

no tyre can be replaced until it is completely worn out.

District War Agricultural Committees are also of use to farmers in recommending release of other materials, such as bore casing, galvanized iron, asbestolite; in fact, all controlling authorities welcome the investigation and recommendation of the committees.

It is evident that the D.W.A.C. organisation is playing a very important and useful part in food production at the present time, and that it will be needed for the duration of the war, and for some time afterwards, at least until the manpower position and the supply of materials returns to normal.

Because this organisation has evolved, a means of keeping in close contact with all of the primary producers it may be that after the war, when farm life returns to the usual channels, it will be the foundation of some better system of planning rural organisation and production.

Finally, it should be remembered that the food is an essential weapon of war, and that the efforts of the farmer are the foundations around which the fighting plans of the Allied Nations are built.

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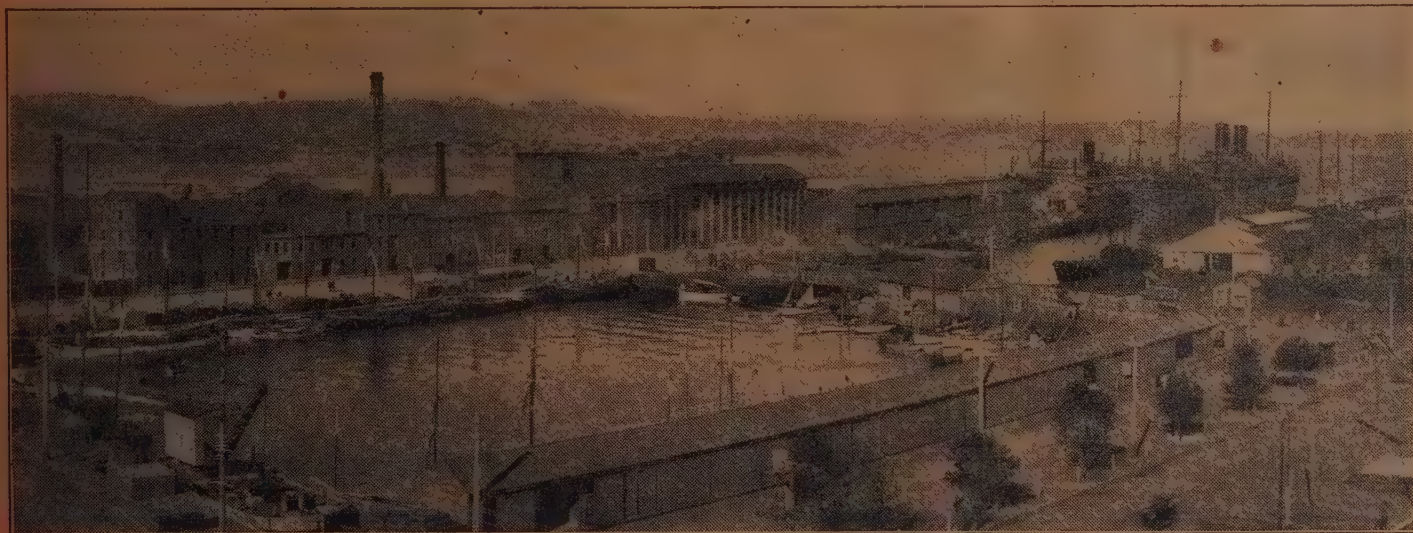
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Western Australia

In his crop report for November, 1944, Mr. H. R. Powell, Supt. of Horticulture, W.A. Dept. of Agriculture, stated as follow:

Several good falls of rain occurred in all fruit districts. The severe frost at the end of October caused considerable damage to various fruit crops.

Apples. Apparently minor damage has been caused over a wide area extending from Donnybrook to Bridgetown. Where the frosts were severe, particularly in the lower levels, very little fruit remains on the trees. Further up the slopes the fruit has been damaged to a greater or lesser extent. On the green and yellow varieties, such as Granny Smiths and Cleos, splitting and consequent malformation is common. The red varieties are in the main undamaged.

Citrus. In a number of orchards in the Donnybrook and Capel districts, young citrus fruits have been destroyed. On these orchards the loss has been considerable, and would range up to 70-80 per cent. of the entire crop. Young fruits inside the trees have not been seriously affected.

Vine Fruits. Currants and Sultanas growing in the Wundowie-Baker's Hill district have been seriously affected; it is estimated that the

yield in these districts has been reduced by 50 per cent.

Other fruits. Walnuts and figs have been cut back, and it is expected that the yield of Walnuts, particularly in the South-west, will be greatly reduced. In some cases it is suspected that non-setting of stone fruits has been caused by frosts.

Apples. The present crop of Apples is less than last year. The varieties most affected are Dunns, Romes and Nickajacks. It is expected that Granny Smiths, Cleos and Yates will be somewhat below last year's production. The estimate is that Jonathans will exceed last year's crop. Doughertys are good; Delicious, Rokewoods and Statesman patchy.

Pears. Prospects are:—Bartletts, heavy; B. Bosc, Josephine, medium to good; Winter Nelis, medium; G. Morceau and Keiffer, light.

Citrus. The coming citrus crop will probably exceed last year's. Navels have good crops, except where damaged by frost. This applies also to Grapefruit, but Valencias, though better than last year, are not heavy. Lemons are not showing signs of a good winter crop, and it is expected that production will be below average.

Stone Fruit, including Apricots, Peaches and both Jap. and English—Plums patchy. Cherries very light.

Vines: It is estimated that table Grapes will equal last year's produc-

tion. Ohanez (dependent on cross-pollination), will be light owing to the shortage of manpower. Muscatels and Waltham Cross crops are expected to approximate last years. Dried fruit varieties — Currants and Sultanas fair; wine varieties good.

Pest Control.

The incidence of disease generally has not been severe, and the Apple jassid which last season threatened to assume serious proportions, is at the present time greatly reduced in numbers, and it is not expected that serious damage will be subsequently caused.

Some considerable damage has been done to fruit crops, particularly Apples and Pears by the climbing cut worm. In a number of orchards that were not sprayed with arsenate of lead to control looper and Apple curculio, the damage has been extensive.

Some hail damage has been recorded in both the Bridgetown and Mount Barker districts and individual growers have suffered considerable losses.

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Apple Crop Less Than Last Season,
Pears Heavier.

ESTIMATES of the forthcoming crops are given as hereunder by the Supt. of Hort., Mr. H. R. Powell.

Estimate of Production.

Variety.	Fancy & Better Grade.	Production, Bush.
Jonathans	195,000	153,334
Cleos.	309,000	365,142
Dunns	108,000	201,952
Delicious	21,000	29,599
Rokewoods	34,500	40,706
G. Smiths	472,000	608,197
Yates	142,000	129,616
Dougherty	25,000	19,198
Others	48,000	61,807
	1,354,500	1,609,551

Good grade estimate	
10 per cent.	135,450
Total, approx.	1,490,000

This quantity is substantially less than last year's crop.

Pears.

Estimate of Production.

Variety.	Fancy & Better Grade.	Production, Bush.
Bartletts	32,000	22,532
Packhams	9,000	8,891
Josephines	21,000	15,145
Comice	6,000	12,614
W. Nelis	8,000	9,922
B. Bosc	7,000	5,453
Keiffer	5,000	5,026
Others	10,000	13,075
	98,000	93,563
Good Grade Estimate		
20 per cent.	19,600	
Total, approx.	118,000	

Pear scab has caused some damage: with humid conditions following Summer rains this disease may increase.

Stone Fruits.

The setting of stone fruits generally is not nearly as heavy as was the case last year.

Estimate of Production.

Variety.	Fancy & Better Grade.	Production, Bush.
Peaches	40,000	66,798
Nectarines	17,000	19,792
Plums	60,000	81,373
Apricots	45,000	72,000
	162,000	240,463

The estimates of fruit production have been based on normal growing conditions. Should very favourable weather conditions be experienced, it can be expected that the estimates will be exceeded.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The Mount Barker (W.A.) Co-operative Co. Ltd. has arranged to conduct Apple packing classes again in the coming season, and is now accepting enrolments.

SAVE LOSS
FROM WINDFALLS
Save Labour

By Extending the Harvest Period with—

CLINGSPRAY

(Regd.)

By Spraying Apple and Pear Trees
CLINGSPRAY reduces Pre-Harvest Drop
and leads to Increased Size and Colour.

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is supplied in 4 ounce bottles—each bottle contains 5 grams Naphthaline Acetic Acid and will make 100 imperial gallons of spray—
Can be applied with effectiveness and safety with Arsenate of Lead, Lime Sulphur or Miscible Oil Sprays.
Full instructions on every bottle.

CLINGSPRAY is a synthetic vegetable hormone in liquid form, containing Naphthaline Acetic Acid, which gave excellent results when tested by officers of the New South Wales Department of Agriculture throughout the 1941-42, 1942-43 seasons. (See New South Wales "Agricultural Gazette," January, 1944).

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- QUEENSLAND—
BUZACOTT (QLD.) LTD., 443 Adelaide Street, Brisbane.
- WESTERN AUSTRALIA—
WIGMORES LTD., 613 Wellington Street, Perth.

Vegetable Culture

Cauliflowers and Cabbages.

THESE two vegetables require practically the same treatment. The seed of seasonal varieties of Cauliflowers may be sown from November to March, and Cabbage seed is sown from September to April. The seedlings are transplanted when they are 3 in. to 4 in. high, states Mr. N. R. Quinn, S. Aust. Dept. of Agric.

Cauliflowers are planted in rows from 30 to 36 in. apart and from 24 in. to 30 in. apart in the row. Cabbages are planted approximately 6 in. less each way, according to variety. These two vegetables grow most satisfactorily in deep loam and clay loam soils. Cauliflowers do not like an acid soil. Both of these crops are heavy feeders, and if a heavy dressing of stable manure has not been worked in previously, an application of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of super. and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of dried blood to the square yard should be worked into the soil just prior to planting out.

Where an organic manure has been used the quantity of artificial manure may be reduced. The plants must be kept growing vigorously right up to maturity with the added assistance of side dressing of 2 oz. sulphate of ammonia per yard, just prior to an irrigation.

Cauliflowers take from six to seven months to reach maturity from the seed, and Cabbages four to five months.

Varieties.

Cauliflower:

November-December: Veitch's Autumn Giant; all seasons, early Greenleaf.
January-February: Late Eclipse, Late Metropole.
March: Special Market, Early London.

Cabbages:

September-October: Henderson's Succession.
November-December: Early Drum-head, All Head, Enkhuizen Glory.
March-April: Irish, Parisian.
January-February: Enfield Market, East Ham.

IRRIGATING TOMATOES.

Less Water and More Cultivation Required.

Because an abundant supply of water is usually available, the Goulburn Valley Tomato grower tends to irrigate far too often, particularly when the plants are young, state officers of the Vic. Dept. of Agric. Records in past seasons, have shown that some growers are using up to 4 feet of water per acre on Tomatoes, while others are growing equally good crops on 1½-2 feet of water.

No hard-and-fast rule can be laid down regarding the most suitable quantity of water to be used per acre or the best times to apply water because soil type, seasonal climatic conditions, the age of plant, the methods of cultivation, and countless other factors, vary so much, and growers therefore have to use their own judgment in the matter.

However, once the young plants are established in the field, irrigation

should be carried out only when absolutely necessary—that is—only to keep the plants growing steadily without wilting.

The absence of an abundant water supply in the soil at this stage will encourage the plants to become deep rooted, and thus, given a bigger feeding area, they are able to stand up to the severe summer heat with less frequent watering.

Frequent irrigation early in the season gives a quick growing, sappy, shallow rooted plant which is more susceptible to the wilt diseases, lacking in resistance to the hot summer

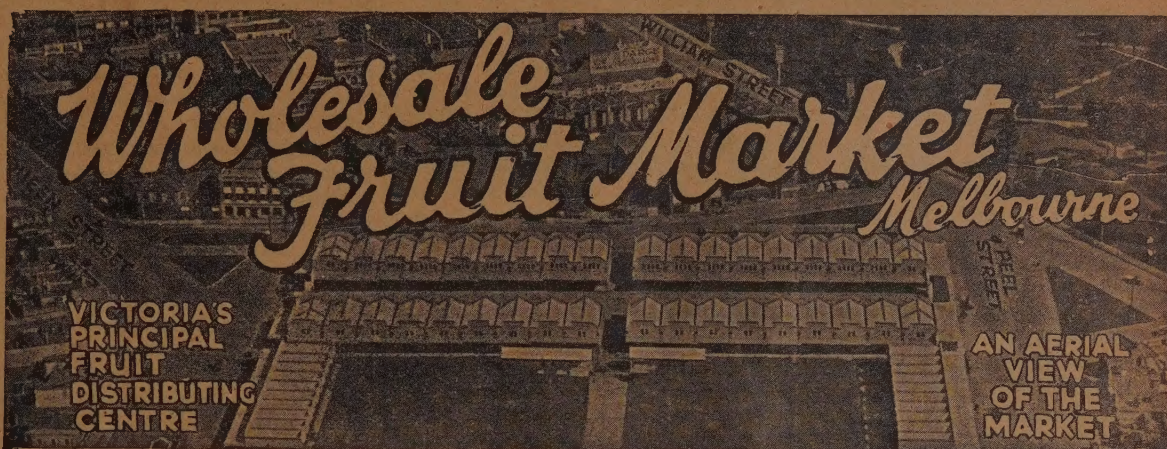
conditions and more often than not, short lived. Last season in Shepparton, many Tomato crops were finished by the end of February. Plants on light soil are rarely as long lived as those on heavier soils, but more of these Shepparton crops were short lived because of over-watering than because of lack of water.

In a dry season such as the present one, when there is insufficient water in storage to meet all demands in the district, it behoves each and every Tomato grower to get the maximum value from each irrigation—to apply water only when neces-

sary, to apply it in an efficient manner without waste, and, to assist in the retention of moisture in the soil by cultivating, as far as possible, after each irrigation.

Careful cultivation helps to control weeds, promotes deeper rooting and keeps the soil in a better physical condition and thus enables the subsequent irrigation water to soak better into the soil.

"I had no shoes and I complained—until I met a man who had no feet."—(Old Chinese proverb.)



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Market Notes and Prices

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Sydney (20/12/44).

The State Marketing Bureau report supplies of stone fruits generally were light, recent windstorms having reduced yields of Peaches and Plums appreciably in coastal orchards, while the continuance of droughty conditions has adversely affected sizing. Demand for Peaches was very satisfactory, particularly for large fruit and, at times, for all sizes. Little difficulty was experienced in realising the maximum rate of 10d. per lb. for good quality fruit.

The bulk of Apricot supplies was received from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. Good demand ruled for most packs, although some lines that showed breakdown had to be sold cheaply. The presence of dust on the fruit detracted from the appearance of a number of packs. A small consignment of Victorian Apricots was on offer and realised up to 45/- per bushel.

The bulk of the supplies of Apples on offer were from interstate sources and comprised a number of varieties, including Yates, Democrat, Rome Beauty, Jonathan, and a small quantity of Granny Smiths. Rates were very firm for the largest sizes of good quality, but relatively low prices in comparison were accepted for 2 inch and 2½ inch packs. Small consignments from the new season's crop from coastal orchards were available, but the quality of the offerings showed considerable variation and values covered a wide range.

Pears were in light supply and mostly comprised Victorian Winter Nelis. Good quality packs sold at the maximum rate of 28/-, but lower rates were accepted for small sizes. Fruit

very forward in condition was sold at lower rates.

Ruling rates were:—

Apples, N.S.W., Yates 10/- to 27/-, new season's cookers 20/- to 27/-, very small sizes from 8/-; interstate, Yates 15/- to 27/-, very small sizes from 9/-, Rome Beauty 25/- to 27/-; Victorian, Democrat 17/- to 27/-; Sth. Australian, Jonathan 25/- to 27/-; Pears, Victorian, Winter Nelis to 28/- (mainly nominal). Oranges, Valencia, Coastal 10/- to 21/- (few plain grades lower). Lemons, Coastal 10/- to 20/-, Rock Melons, Queensland 16/- to 25/- per bushel case. Peaches, 10/- to 20/-. Plums, 6/- to 15/-, factory lines lower, specials to 20/-. Apricots, 12/- to 20/-, specials to 22/-. Passionfruit, 20/- to 50/-, inferior lower. Mangoes, 15/- to 22/- per half case. Bananas, 3d. to 6d., few specials higher, per lb., ripe and small fruit lower. (Weight 80 to 96 lb. per case.) Cherries, 10/- to 16/-, inferior from 7/-, extra choice to 20/-, specials higher, per quarter case. Strawberries: Local 18/- to 36/- per dozen punnets. Papaws, 15/- to 35/-, few higher. Pineapples, 25/- (nominal) per tropical case.

Vegetables.

Peas, good and choice, 23/4, other from 10/-, few lower. Beans, good and choice 20/-, inferior from 5/-, some unsaleable per bushel. Cabbages, 4/- to 18/-, few early sales higher; some inferior lots unsaleable. Marrows, 4/- to 12/-. Squash, 4/- to 10/- per dozen. Lettuce, 2/6 to 5/- per case. Carrots (bagged) 25/-, inferior lower, per cwt. Parsnips, 3/- to 6/- per doz. bunches, to 28/- (mainly nominal) cwt. Rhubarb, 4/- to 6/-. Spinach, 6/- to 8/-, few 9/-. Celery (Local), 5/- to 12/-. Eschalots, 4/- to 5/-. Mint, 3/-. Parsley, 9/- to 12/-. Beet-

root, 2/- to 5/- per doz. bunches. Tomatoes, 10/- to 20/-, small and inferior from 5/- per half case. Onions, Queensland, brown and white, 23/6. Pumpkins, 22/6. Potatoes, new grade, 7/10½ per cwt. Cucumbers, Apple 6/- to 12/-, few higher, green 2/6 to 8/- per half case.

VICTORIA.

Melbourne (6/1/45).

Beans, French, 12/- to 32/- 50 lb., few to 40/-; beetroot, 10d. to 1/- doz., max. 17/- cwt.; beet, silver, 3/- to 4/- doz.; cabbages, 4/- to 10/- doz.; carrots, 3/- to 4/6 doz. bunches, max. 21/- cwt. without tops, 16/- with tops; celery, 6/- to 8/- doz.; cucumbers, 15/- to 25/- case; garlic, 1/3 to 1/6 lb.; horseradish, 1/- to 1/3 bundle; lettuce, 2/- to 4/6 case; mint, 2/- to 3/- doz. bunches; onions, green 2/- to 3/- doz. bunches, silver 3/- doz.; parsley, 2/- to 3/- doz.; parsnips, 3/- to 4/6 doz., max. 23/- cwt. without tops, 18/- with tops; peas, 12/- to 20/- 50 lb., few to 22/-; potatoes, 10/- to 10/6 bag; pumpkins, 18/- to 36/- doz., to 25/6 cwt.; radish, 2/- to 3/- doz. bunches; rhubarb, 3/- to 4/6 doz.; spinach, 4/- to 6/- doz.; tomatoes, 10/- to 20/- case, few to 26/-, green and inferior lines unsaleable; turnips, 3/- to 5/- doz. bunches; swedes, 10/- to 14/- bag, 5/- to 8/- doz. bunches; vegetable marrows, 6/- to 9/- doz.

Fruit (bush. case, unless stated).

Apples, eating 14/- to 22/-, few to 25/- (max.); cooking, 8/- to 16/-, few Granny Smith to 25/-. Apricots, 6/- to 15/-, few to 20/-. Cherries, 8d. to 1/2 lb. Red Currants, 10d. to 1/- punnet. Loganberries, 5d. to 6d. Figs, 8/- to 12/- half case. Grapes, Currant, 12/- to 16/- half case. Oranges, Navel, 15/6 to 18/6 max.; Valencias,

18/6 to 21/6 (max.). Lemons, 20/- to 25/- (max.). Raspberries, 1/- to 1/3 punnet. Strawberries, 1/6 to 3/- punnet. Nectarines, 15/- to 25/-, few to 28/-. Peaches, 4/- to 18/-, few to 22/-. Pears, dessert, William, 15/- to 22/-, few to 25/-. Papaws, 22/- to 30/- double case. Plums, 6/- to 16/-, few to 18/-. Cherry Plums, 5/- to 7/-. Bananas (green), 22/- to 50/- double case, few higher. Pineapples, 22/- to 27/6 double case. Passionfruit, 30/- to 45/- half case. Cantaloupes (Q.), 20/- to 28/-.

S. AUST. APPLES AND PEARS.

* Very Light Crop in 1945.

A very light crop of Apples and Pears in Sth. Aust. in 1945 is forecast by the Chief Horticulturist, Mr. A. G. Strickland. The Apples crop is estimated at between 500,000 and 550,000 bushels and Pears 250,000 bushels.

APPLE AND PEAR ACQUISITION.

Tasmania and W. Aust. Only.

Canberra (14/12/44).

The decision of the Commonwealth Government to acquire the 1944-45 crops of Apples and Pears in Tasmania and Western Australia was officially announced by the Minister for Commerce and Agriculture (Mr. Scully).

The acquisition Order provides for similar conditions as in 1944.

"CONDITIONING" OF PEARS.

The Pear Bureau in America has advocated methods for conditioning or ripening winter Pears so that they come on to the market in the best possible state.

Winter Pears are best when picked green and allowed to ripen under suitable conditions of warmth and humidity. Since many retailers lack the facilities to ripen Pears properly, wholesalers should find it profitable to supply their dealers with conditioned Pears.

When kept in cool storage, Winter Pears remain dormant. Warmth is required to convert their carbohydrates to sugar and the hard dry flesh to sweet juiciness. Ideal ripening temperature is 65 deg., though anywhere from 60 deg. to 70 deg. F. is satisfactory. High humidity in the ripening room is desirable to prevent shrivelling and preserve the freshness of the skins.

KEEPING APPLES COOL.

Apples left loosely stacked under the trees over night may be cooler by morning than if placed in a crowded storage room. Fruit picked in the afternoon is ordinarily hotter than if picked in the morning. For this reason, there is a decided advantage in bringing fruit to the cold storage during the morning hours, only.



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Pig Notes

GREEN FEED FOR PIGS.

GREEN FEED is not only the most economical source of vitamins, especially vitamin A, but it can provide a considerable proportion of the nutritive requirements of both growing pigs and breeding stock, and so can save a considerable amount of grain. It also adds bulk to otherwise heavy, concentrated rations, such as grains.

To obtain the best results from green feed, states a departmental pamphlet, it must be fed when fresh, young and leafy. Stalky green feed, e.g., Maize and Sorghum, is lower in food value than leafy crops such as Lucerne, Clovers, young grasses and young cereal crops such as Oats and Wheat.

It is usually more economical to cut and feed crops than to graze the pigs. The crop can be cut at the stage of highest feeding value, and a controlled amount can be fed. On the other hand, grazing reduces labour requirements, but to ensure that pigs get a constant supply of fresh, leafy material, a system of subdivision and rotational grazing must be adopted.

As regards the area of crops required for pigs, about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre per brood sow is a reasonable allowance.

The natural habit of pigs when grazing is to root up the ground and, although immaterial in annual crops such as rape, it creates a problem with permanent pasture or perennial crops such as Lucerne. Provision of adequate shade and drinking water may assist in minimising the trouble, and pigs should only be allowed on the pasture for limited periods, being taken off as soon as it is noticed that they are commencing to root excessively.

A FEW PIGS ON EVERY FARM.

The present conditions of pig prices and food supplies and prices are the most favourable the pig industry has ever experienced, and increased production to the limit of capacity is expected. This is an effect of war, and it means that maximum production is required with little regard to cost. As a war-time emergency this is alright, but it must be regarded as a future danger when competition with other pig-producing countries has to be faced. Efficiency then will assume more importance than it does at present.

Mr. L. A. Downey, Pig Expert of the Victorian Department of Agriculture, directs attention to the fact that, generally speaking, the most economical pig raising is where waste or by-products are fed to pigs on the farm where they occur, and this type of pig raising should be developed to the fullest extent at all times. Unfortunately, on many farms, including market gardens and orchards, no pigs are kept to salvage waste and return fertilizer to the soil.

The expansion of the policy of a few pigs on every farm should make a material contribution to individual farm incomes and to the pig industry as a whole.

Poultry Notes

CARE OF POULTRY IN HOT WEATHER.

If undue losses are to be avoided during the hot Summer months, special care should be given to poultry. The following hints, supplied by Poultry Experts of the Victorian Department of Agriculture, will help to reduce mortality during a heat wave. Hose the litter, the walls of the houses and the birds, at frequent intervals before and during the hottest part of the day.

Houses should be well ventilated and roomy. Nests should be placed inside the houses, away from the hot sun, and have sufficient room and ventilation, so that the birds will be as cool as possible while laying.

A continuous and easily accessible supply of fresh, cool drinking water is essential. Water vessels placed temporarily on the floor and near the birds when they are distressed, will reduce losses.

With general good management, the birds will maintain a high standard of health and natural resistance to varying weather conditions, and this will help greatly to reduce mortality.

WATER FOR POULTRY.

Poultry should always have access to plenty of good, clean drinking water. If water is restricted the health of the birds will be affected, less food will be eaten, fewer eggs will be laid, and the growth of young stock will be hampered.

It is important also that drinking water shall be always available to ducks, both day and night. If these birds are deprived of water for even a short period they become very thirsty, and when it is provided in sufficient quantities they will drink to excess, causing staggers or cramp, which may prove fatal.

Officers of the Live Stock Division of the Victorian Department of Agriculture state that a laying fowl will drink about 5 or 6 oz. of water per day in normal weather, and much more in hot weather, therefore approximately one gallon per day for every 20 birds will be required.

It is not advisable to put medicines or disinfectants in the water, as anything that makes it distasteful restricts the amount the birds will drink, and that in turn will affect health and production. When medicines are necessary they should be given through the food.

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Correspondence is invited by the Association.

Office: 21 Wholesale Fruit Market, Queen St., Melbourne.
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Tasmanian News and Notes

(By Our Correspondent.)

THE APPLE CROP in the northern areas, as anticipated, is showing up patchily, some orchards carrying more even crops than others; the season so far has been favourable for growth.

Pears appear to be quite a good crop; so far neither Apples or Pears show much black spot. Moth spray is in full progress and most growers are using the arsenate of lead considerably stronger than the manufacturers recommend. Cultivation in most orchards is well in hand and the trees are a healthy colour. Similar conditions appear to exist both in the Lilydale and Spreyton districts, so northern Tasmania should have a fair crop.

Vegetable growing has increased in the Scottsdale district and the North-west coast. In these districts is to be

found some of the best land in Tasmania.

The districts in the south do not appear to be quite so fortunate—weather conditions have not been very favourable for spraying and black spot is prevalent in most districts, chiefly on Sturmers and Cleos. There was heavy rain during the second week of December, followed by dull warm weather, and on the night of December 16, a northerly gale with high temperature brought red dust.

Codling moth spraying is in progress and various preparations of sulphur are being combined with lead to combat spot. A warm dry spell is needed to check the pest. Cultivation has been difficult right through till the last rain, which softened things up nicely and allowed the discs and spring teeth, etc., to do good work.

Alfristons dropped heavily in many places and will only be a medium crop.

Gravensteins are normal, but, as in the past, will be insufficient for local needs. W.P.M. are not much grown in the south, but seem a fair crop. Cox's Orange are good in most places; Jonathans patchy, certainly below last year; Cleos are only fair on the average; Scarlets are on the heavy side; Croftons are a fair crop if they stay clean; Sturmers average quite a fair crop, but are inclined to be spotty, however, many trees will need thinning, and it can be cut out. Granny Smiths are definitely on the light side; Democrats seem evenly heavy and should be a satisfactory size and better keepers than they were last year.

Pears are patchy, some Coles need thinning, while others are practically bare. Packhams appear to be good all round. Josephines are a fair crop, but not many grown. B. Bosc are a full crop in most places.

There are some good crops of Gooseberries which should be finished

about Christmas. Strawberries have been disappointing; Loganberries and Raspberries should pick well. Pickers are in short supply, although they get about a third of the crop for picking it, which is proportionately better than the grower gets for twelve months' work and expenses. Some growers say they are getting a smaller net return than they did four years or so ago. Black Currants are in keen demand and will be short of requirements.

All factories are anticipating a busy season. Butter production is still below previous years and will probably remain so for some years.

Eggs are more plentiful at present, but the producer is underpaid and consumer overcharged, the balance being eaten up in expenses.

Grass is plentiful in the south and some is being cut for hay, owing to the demand for chaff for the drought areas, fodder is likely to be scarce in Tasmania next winter unless we get good Autumn rains.

It is to be hoped that there will be successful efforts made to improve the fertilizer supply next season, especially potash and nitrogenous manures, both very necessary in the production of high quality Apples and other fruits. Box material is an ever increasing problem, even if skilled labour were available the timber is getting cut out at an alarming pace and reforestation is a very slow job in Tasmania even with pines.

HOBART (17/12/44).—The Tasmanian Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Madden) has received from the Chief Horticulturist (Mr. P. H. Thomas) a crop forecast for Apples, Pears and berry fruits for the 1944-45 season. It was stated that reports received from the different districts indicated that following the record Apple crop of 1943-44, most orchards showed promise of good but slightly reduced yields.

Of the principal commercial varieties, Sturmer Pippin, Democrat and Scarlet were stated to vary from good to heavy; Jonathan, Worcester, Alfriston, Crofton and Delicious medium to good crops, and Granny Smith and Cleopatra light to medium.

In some districts fungus infection was evident, black spot being prevalent amongst susceptible varieties.

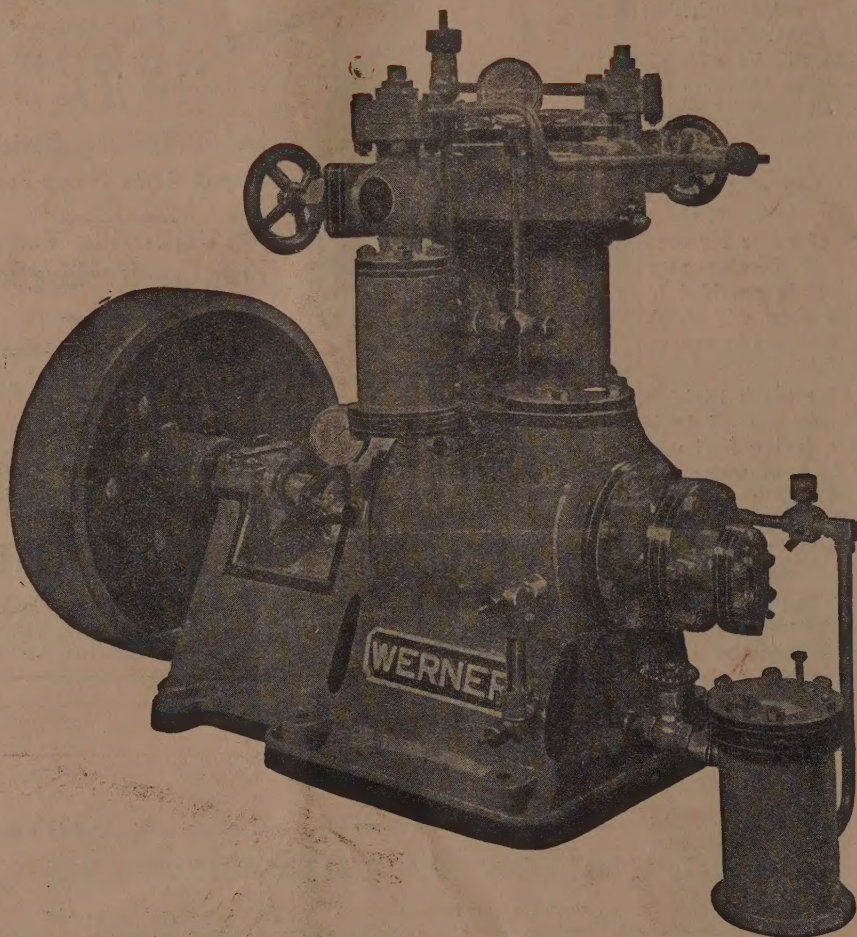
The Pear crop was generally below average, but most varieties should yield satisfactorily. From the reports received, Williams' bon Chretien, Beurre Bosc, Glou Morceau and Packhams are medium to good crops, and Winter Cole, Winter Nelis and Josephine light to medium. Some crops were badly infected by black spot, which was especially troublesome on the Packhams variety this season.

Indications were for improved crops of Apricots and Plums compared to the two previous seasons, and with suitable weather conditions the yields should approach that of normal. The humid conditions experienced subsequent to flowering, however, have been conducive to serious outbreaks of brown rot, especially in neglected areas.

Raspberries, Strawberries and Loganberries promised well, and with a continuation of the favourable growth conditions, heavy crops should be harvested.

Black Currants and Gooseberries, which flower very early in the season, encountered frosts and inclement weather, and yields should be much below normal.

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